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Thursday, April 6 - Wednesday, April 12, 2017

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## 'Sadness' as GP surgery shuts doors

By George Welch

FORMER Deer Park Medical Centre employees have paid tributes as the surgery closed its doors for the final time and campaigners pledge to fight on.

Around 1,000 of the 4,400 patients registered at the Witney surgery are yet to re-register with other GP practices.

And as staff cleared their desks on Friday, some paid tribute to patients and campaigners.

Dr Mark Widgery, one of three doctors who served Deer Park, said: "I want to apologise that I have not been able to say goodbye to all of you in person.

"When I first arrived at Deer Park I was asked 'are you actually staying?' by many of you. I am very glad I did stay.

"It has been my privilege to be your GP for the past four-and-a-half years.

"All the staff are very grateful for your kind cards and gifts.

"I am deeply sad to see Deer Park come to an end and it has been heartening to see the passion from so many in working to keep the surgery open.

"I wish all of you the best for the future."

Nurse Kay Tucker added: "Thank you all for your support over the last few months.

"I have had over five fantastic years at Deer Park and will miss you all.

"Wishing you all health and happiness for the future."

Lead receptionist Janet Boyle also thanked those who fought to keep the Deer Park doors open.

She said: "Thank you all so much for all you have done to keep the surgery open. I know you will keep up the fight and I wish you success. Take care."

Witney town councillor and Deer Park Campaign Group (DPCG) – formally known as the Patient Participation Group – chairwoman Brenda Churchill thanked the Deer Park staff.

She said: "They've been fantastic. I can't fault the doctors or the staff. They have been brilliant. We are trying to get it re-commissioned. The owner of the building is waiting to see the outcome.

"It's for sale or let but the owner of the building has written a good letter for us to send to the IRP to say the building was purpose built for a doctors surgery."

It was confirmed in October the surgery was to close after contract negotiations between Virgin Care, the care providers at the centre, and the Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (OCCG) were unsuccessful.

The centre was due to remain open until November 3 but, following a meeting with the DPCG, the OCCG extended the closure date until March 31.

• Continues on page 3



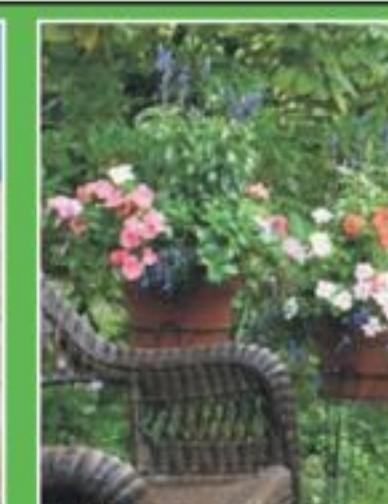
### Look what Yousstwos have created

BRITAIN'S first baby Sifaka lemur has taken his first steps at Cotswold Wildlife Park. Born last month, Yousstwo is the first breeding success for new parents Bafana and Tahina and is the first Sifaka birth in the park's history. Full story on page 9

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Harriet in India demonstrating her sewing machine and, inset, an example of her work

## Artist Harriet is sew talented

AN artist who creates live sewing machine portraits with a power-generating bicycle will be pedalling her way through the UK on a nationwide tour starting this month.

A student of contemporary applied arts, Harriet Riddell, from Watlington, started her career off with life drawing.

But she was always intrigued with textiles and was inspired to use her sewing machine to create unique doodles.

She draws from observation as her subjects pedal away on a bicycle to generate the power for the sewing machine.

Now Harriet is planning a tour of England with her sewing machine, starting from her old University town in Hatfield, Hertfordshire.

Her business, InStitchYou, kickstarted when she would do 15-minute portraits of her subjects in Greenwich Market, London.

Since then, Harriet's art has led her on many adventures, working at Glastonbury festival and travelling as far as India and Kenya.

She said: "Immediately I found a love for this style of drawing. I would set up in pub-

lic places and draw what I could see and hear in cafes, pubs and mountain tops.

"I love the interaction with people when I work. Using the bicycle enhanced this as it encourages the public to become a part of the art.

"I love to work from life. I never draw before I stitch. I like the immediacy of my work and having to work quickly and intuitively to my surroundings.

"This feeds energy into my stitched lines. I am always looking for new places to explore my work in different subjects and real life scenarios."

By Eva Astreinidou

A LAW making it illegal for an adult to send sexual communications to a child under 16 has come into force in a bid to stop the increase in grooming.

From Monday, online grooming became a crime in England and Wales, meaning police will be able to arrest anyone who sends a sexual message to a child and intervene before physical abuse takes place.

Thames Valley Police recorded a 55 per cent rise in abusers meeting children after grooming them over the last five years across Thames Valley.

According to Home Office figures, police recorded 14 offences of 'meeting a child following sexual grooming' in Thames Valley in the year to March 2016 - up from nine in 2012.

The NSPCC, the charity working towards safeguarding children against cruelty, said a law was created to make it illegal to send sexual messages to children following the campaign, but the Government 'failed' to bring that law into

force in England and Wales, "leaving police hands tied and preventing them from arresting groomers until they meet the child or sexually abuse them".

As a result, the charity launched the 'Flaw in the Law' campaign, where more than 50,000 people signed a petition to fix the 'loophole'.

A representative said the charity pressured the Government to urgently bring in the anti-grooming legislation and Justice Secretary Liz Truss 'finally' listened.

NSPCC chief executive Peter Wanless said: "The Justice Secretary has done the right thing.

"This is a victory for the 50,000 people who supported the NSPCC's Flaw in the Law campaign. It is a victory for common sense.

"Children should be as safe online as they are offline, wherever they are in the UK.

"This law will give police in England and Wales the powers they need to protect children from online grooming, and to intervene sooner to stop abuse before it starts."

## New fire chief working to benefit our communities

OXFORDSHIRE County Council's Fire and Rescue Service has a new Chief Fire Officer.

Simon Furlong, formerly the county's Deputy Chief Fire Officer, started in his new role on Monday, succeeding former chief Dave Etheridge OBE, who retired at the end of March.

Mr Furlong has also been appointed Oxfordshire County Council's Director of Community Safety which includes road safety, business continuity, gypsy and traveller services, emergency planning and trading standards.

He began working as a firefighter in 1990 in West Sussex, moving up the ranks until he joined Oxfordshire's fire service in 2012 as Assistant Chief Fire Officer before being promoted to Deputy Chief Fire Officer last year.

Mr Furlong, who has spent almost 27 years in the fire service, said: "I am extremely proud. I believe that we are in a strong position to face the challenges ahead and to deliver real benefits to all our communities by working together with



my colleagues in the county council.

"We have highly professional fire and rescue and community safety services here in Oxfordshire and I feel very honoured to be given the opportunity to lead such dedicated staff.

"Everyone who delivers our services, from firefighters to emergency planning officers to support staff, play an integral part in delivering our vision of 'working together every day to save and improve the lives of the people across Oxfordshire' and remain fully committed to doing so."

He added that, in his position of Director of Community Safety, he wants to increase the diversity of his workforce "to enable us to represent Oxfordshire's communities more effectively".

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# Appeal for runners to raise cash for Cecily orphan fund

By George Welch

A CHARITY set up in 1998 in memory of a 19-year-old Witney woman who died in Zambia is appealing for runners to help raise funds for orphans in Zambia.

Cecily's Fund, based in Witney's Church Green, "urgently" needs individuals to take part in a 10k run in London on July 9.

The charity, celebrating 20 years of supporting orphans and vulnerable children affected by HIV/AIDS, want 18 people to pull on their running shoes.

Cecily's Fund was founded after 19-year-old Cecily Eastwood died in a car crash while volunteering at an orphanage in 1997. The group is now the leading provider of educational support for orphans in Zambia's copperbelt district, where Cecily died.

In its two decades of fundraising, Cecily's Fund has raised – with the support of Oxfordshire residents – over £5million and changed the lives of more than 80,000 children.

One recipient of the aid, 18-year-old Manasseh – who was orphaned and left to fend for himself and his two sisters – said: "Cecily's Fund has made a huge difference to me and my family.

"If not for the privilege of



Runners taking part in last year's event to raise money for Cecily's Fund

being on sponsorship, I don't think I would have completed my secondary education."

The charity is now appealing to residents to continue supporting its work by entering its traditional London 10k charity run either through teams or individuals.

In 2016, the Cecily's Fund 10k team raised £4,000 – enough to send 80 orphaned and vulnerable children to school for a year.

Cecily Fund's director, Cheryl Hooper, said: "Investing in Cecily's Fund gets results. Increasingly supporters and

funders see our approach as adding value and impact that really changes lives.

"During our 20th anniversary year we are looking to raise £20,000 to support an additional 400 children with access education, which in the UK is taken for granted.

"In Zambia the majority of children live in extreme poverty and have few opportunities to change their futures."

The fundraising target for July's 10k is £5,000. Visit [bit.ly/cfundevents](http://bit.ly/cfundevents) to register your interest.

## Still hope for the future

Continued from front page

The Oxfordshire Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) referred the matter up the chain when its members deemed the closure to represent a 'substantial change', putting the decision in the hands of Health Secretary Jeremy Hunt.

Mr Hunt confirmed in a letter to the OCCG he has sought advice from the Independent Reconfiguration Panel (IRP), which will advise him on what services should be included at Deer Park.

There is still hope for campaigners as they are yet to hear back from the IRP.

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## News Bites

### Residents' views

**WITNEY:** The town council is asking residents for their views and comments on the services it provides.

You can find the annual satisfaction survey 2017 on the council's social media feeds and website.

A paper version will feature in the April edition of the Letterbox magazine which is delivered to 12,000 homes in the town.

The responses to this and last year's survey will help the council formulate its corporate plan for the town for 2016-2018.

### Splash park fun

**WITNEY:** The splash park at the Leys reopens this Friday until September 3 to help the little ones keep their cool when summer kicks in.

Visitors can also enjoy an adventure playground with modern features for all age ranges.

The park boasts eight recently resurfaced tennis courts, a cool skate park and seasonal crazy golf with tiny plastic clubs available for the little kids.

### It's talent time

**WITNEY:** A talent show is set to showcase the best the town has to offer.

The event will take place at Witney corn exchange on May 20 at 5pm.

Under 17s have a chance to win £50 for first place.

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# 17 accused over 'child sex abuse'

A TOTAL of 17 men face child sex charges after a series of raids in Oxford and Banbury.

Seven were accused of a catalogue of offences after dozens of officers targeted Oxford homes on Thursday last week.

Police confirmed on Saturday that the men, aged 20 to 24, had been charged.

They have been remanded in custody to appear at Oxford Crown Court on April 25.

Around 80 officers raided six Oxford properties as part of Operation Nautical, an investigation into non-recent child sexual exploitation in Oxfordshire. The offences relate to three female victims between 2008 and 2015, police said.

Eight other men have been charged following separate raids in Banbury on Tuesday last week, also as part of Operation Nautical.

A total of 56 charges have been brought against them as they appeared at Oxford Magistrates' Court last week.

A further two men have also

been charged in connection with the Banbury investigation.

Following the arrests, deputy local police area commander for Oxford, Ch Insp Marc Tarbit, said: "The nature of these arrests will always be concerning and I understand that people may have questions about them.

"Because this is an ongoing investigation we will not be able to provide all the information straight away, but we will keep the community updated when we can."

Tackling child sexual exploitation, both non recent and current, remains an absolute priority for Thames Valley Police and this complex investigation and today's arrests demonstrate this.

"The news of these warrants today could remind people of something that has happened to them in the past which they wish to report to us."

A full list of the charges faced by the accused can be seen at [www.oxfordshireguardian.co.uk](http://www.oxfordshireguardian.co.uk)



## Young musicians tune up for concert

MORE than 500 young musicians from Oxfordshire descended on Birmingham's prestigious Symphony Hall to perform a special concert to celebrate 75 years of the County Music Service.

A wide range of instrumental and vocal performances wowed a packed audience on March 25 as various bands, orchestras and choirs took to

the stage having honed their skills with the music service.

The Oxfordshire County Council Music Service provides instrumental, vocal, performing arts and music theory tuition and activities.

The service's head, Angela Turton, said: "This was a fantastic performance and experience for all staff and students.

"Oxfordshire County Music

Service has changed a great deal since it was set up in 1942, but one thing that has remained a constant is the commitment and skill of its tutors and other staff, and the talent that generations of the county's children have.

She added: "The service has a bright future and this was truly evident in the high standard and range of performances."

"By encouraging diversity and embracing technology, we hope to expand the service and ensure that quality, the hallmark of our service, is maintained."

At one point a massed choir of children from Oxfordshire primary and secondary schools performed alongside singers from established music service vocal groups.

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# Puppies dumped in bucket by road

## Animal cruelty up 10% says RSPCA

By Eva Astreinidou

REPORTED cases of animal cruelty have risen by nearly 10 per cent in Oxfordshire.

Animal charity the RSPCA revealed the alarming figures last Wednesday along with a shocking catalogue that included puppies dumped by the roadside in a bucket without water.

A member of the public reported the three abandoned puppies in Bicester last August.

Now, they have been rehomed and reunited with their mother, Abby, who was taken to a local rescue kennel by a council dog warden after being picked up as a stray.

Annabell Pottle, from Ardley Rescue Kennels, who helped to rehabilitate the dogs, said: "It's so sad that someone would do this to such lovely dogs. We are pleased they have gone on to find new homes."

RSPCA inspector Andy Eddy said: "These poor pups had been left alone in a broken bucket and were clambering on top of each other.

"They were suffering with mange, diarrhoea and worms, but with expert care, they all thankfully made a good recovery.

"They had no water. Leaving them exposed like this was really dangerous. Sadly the person who dumped them was never traced."



The puppies have now been reunited with their mother

Last year, five puppies were discovered dumped in a cage near Chipping Norton.

The puppies, three of which had already died, were found with no water by a dog walker on October 24. Two eight-week-old pups were found in a crate alongside the three dead puppies – one of them later died at the vets.

Speaking on the recent report, Dermot Murphy, assistant director of the RSPCA inspectorate, said: "I believe that the figures from last year show that we're not becoming crueler.

"It seems that people are simply less willing to stand by and do nothing if they think an animal is suffering."

## Jailed dealer had £20k of drugs seized from home

A PROLIFIC drug dealer who had more than £20,000 of Class A and B drugs seized from him has been sentenced to more than three years behind bars.

Dean Gannon, 49, of Pelican Place in Eynsham, pleaded guilty to three counts of drug offences in February.

On July 14 last year, Thames Valley Police officers executed a misuse of drugs warrant at Gannon's home.

He was arrested and officers seized 'large quantities' of MDMA, 1.6 kilos of cannabis, and a 'quantity' of cannabis resin, with a street value of over £20,000.

Officers also seized £24,000 in cash.

Gannon was charged on January 16 and pleaded guilty to the offences in February at Oxford Magistrates' Court.

He was sentenced to 42 months at Oxford Crown Court on March 24.

Gannon pleaded guilty to one count of possession with intent to supply a controlled drug of class B (cannabis resin).



Dean Gannon got 42 months in jail



Thousands in cash found at home

good living from dealing class A and B drugs to the community.

"His activity was lowering the quality of life of people in the local community and causing distress to many.

"Drug supply is an important issue and Thames Valley Police in west Oxfordshire is committed to reducing crime, especially drug-related offences."

Contact police on 101 if you have any drug-related concerns in your area.



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Wildlife curator James Craig pictured in Madagascar

## What's Yousstwo looking at then?

GREAT Britain's first baby Sifaka lemur has taken his first steps at Cotswold Wildlife Park.

Born last month, Yousstwo is the first breeding success for new parents Bafana and Tahina and is the first Sifaka birth in the park's history.

Jamie Craig, curator of Cotswold Wildlife Park, said: "On the night of the birth, things seemed to go perfectly from the beginning. It is enormously satisfying to watch Yousstwo develop after all the effort that has been

put in by keepers – including 24-hour Sifaka watch on CCTV.

"Tahina is proving to be an exemplary mother and our success complements the conservation efforts in Madagascar perfectly.

"Yousstwo is now beginning to explore his new world and we hope he will go on to be an important part of the breeding programme."

Bafana arrived at the park in 2009 from Besançon Zoo in France and Tahina joined him in 2013. The pair formed an instant bond and are the only breeding pair in the country.

Lemurs are native to Madagascar.



Sifaka lemur Yousstwo hitches a ride at Cotswold Wildlife Park. Pictures: Jackie Thomas

# BMW workers strike over pensions

By George Welch

WORKERS at car giant BMW, based at Cowley's Mini Plant, have voted overwhelmingly to go on strike over a pensions dispute.

Members of Unite backed walkouts by 93 per cent, with 97 per cent supporting other forms of industrial action on Friday last week.

Yesterday, Unite announced eight 24-hour strikes between April 19 and May 24 that will impact up to 3,500 workers in Cowley, Swindon, Goodwood and the Hams Hall plant in the west Midlands.

Workers at the Cowley plant are due to strike on five of the dates, including April 19, 23 and May 16, 18 and 21.

The union said closure of

the BMW pension scheme by the end of May could see some workers lose up to £160,000 in retirement income.

Unite general secretary Len McCluskey said yesterday that strike action will be taking place due to "BMW's refusal to talk about affordable options to keep the pension scheme open".

He added: "Bosses in the UK

Munich cannot feign surprise that it's come to this point.

"Unite has repeatedly warned of the anger their insistence to railroad through the pension scheme's closure would generate and the resulting industrial action.

"BMW's bosses need to get their heads out of the sand and recognise their pension pinching plans will not go unchallenged.

"BMW's UK workers have contributed significantly to a record year in revenues and sales for the carmaker.

"They deserve better than broken pension promises and the loss of tens of thousands of pounds in retirement income.

"I urge BMW to step back from its May deadline for the scheme's closure and negotiate seriously to find a settlement."

A BMW spokesperson said before yesterday's announcement: "BMW has always prided itself in providing excellent pensions for its staff and wants to act now to protect future pension provision for its UK workforce.

"The company has had a number of planned meetings on the from its May deadline for the proposed changes since the start of the consultation process in September last year."

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## Record-chasers are the cat's whiskers

ANIMAL lovers are being urged to don whiskers, ears and a tail to help an animal charity set a new world record for the largest gathering of people dressed as cats.

Burford-based Blue Cross needs 500 willing supporters to dress head to toe as a cat at their rehoming centre on Shilton Road to set the new world record.

The record attempt will take place on Sunday, May 14, during a family fun day at the west Oxfordshire centre.

To be counted as part of the record attempt, people will need to have a full head to toe cat costume including ears, tail and whiskers, which may be painted on their face.

Alongside the record attempt, there will be a fun

day for all the family with a dog show, fun fair, live music and games from 11am to 4pm.

Entry to the fun day is £1, which will go towards helping Blue Cross continue its vital work helping sick and injured pets. Children under the age of 16 can go for free.

Jenna Martyn, Blue Cross Burford centre manager, said: "We are looking forward to

seeing lots of people putting their best paw forward on the day.

"Not only will we be bidding for a new world record but also raising awareness of the work Blue Cross does and funds to help our charity continues its work across the country."

To take part in the world record attempt, register at [tinyurl.com/msub3uj](http://tinyurl.com/msub3uj)

# Dementia care home 'excellent'

By George Welch

AN Oxford care home has been praised for its 'excellent facilities' following a special visit.

The Lord Mayor of Oxford, Mohammed Altaf-Khan, went to Wytham House, which provides dementia care for up to 40 people, for an awareness event on March 23.

He met Wytham House manager Karen Evans-Slade and other members of staff.

The event at the Eynsham Road home was an opportunity for people to get a better understanding about, and empathy for, the psychological needs of a person living with dementia.

Cllr Altaf-Khan, who helped open the home by planting a rose bush last summer, was impressed.

The Lord Mayor, who attended the event along with local businesses and organisations, said:

"At Wytham House it is good to see some of the most vulnerable people in our community being cared for in a well designed and

well-run home. It must be very reassuring for families to know their loved ones are well looked after and good to see that as a society here in Oxford we are caring well for our elderly people, some of whom may be in the last stages of their lives."

The sessions to help people understand the needs of people living with dementia are based on the dementia training programme by Caring Homes, which runs the home.

There were hints and tips to improve communication and a practical session to help people understand some of the day-to-day frustrations of living with dementia.

The session, as well as a similar event in the morning especially for family members of those living with dementia, was run by Caring Homes' dementia training lead Michele Saunders.

She said: "These sessions really help people understand what life is like for those living with the condition."

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# Support the Oxfordshire Guardian's charity of the year – Play2Give

# Team struggle through the bog

By George Welch

A SUPER six waded, crawled, climbed and ran through mud and water in arduous conditions to help raise cash for a local fundraising organisation.

The Herculean effort of the six saw them brave the bog of eternal stench, crawl through a tyre pen and climb over a great wall – among other things – at a Monster Race in west Oxfordshire on Saturday, to collect hundreds of pounds for our charity of the year, Play2Give (P2G).

P2G, founded by Didcot's Andy Baker in 2007, is aiming to raise £10k in the charity's 10th anniversary, with the Oxford Children's Hospital and Headway Oxfordshire the main benefactor's of the charity's fundraising.

Hardy souls Lee Edwards, Jonathan Elsmore-Wickens, Lesley Saunders, Charlie Sadler were from Cowley-based Leaseguard, a group that helps the NHS make savings.

Charlie's husband Martyn, of Bicester Car & Van Rental and Russ Doman, who works for Allmakes 4x4, completed the gruelling obstacle assault race with the rest of the team within two and a half hours.

THE OXFORD PAPER  
and  
Oxfordshire  
Guardian  
Charity of the year 2017  
Play2Give



The team with their medals at the end, from left, Charlie Sadler, Jon Elsmore-Wickens, the team's inspiration Andy Baker, Lesley Saunders, Lee Edwards, Russ Doman and Martyn Sadler

helped, as did the jelly babies. Andy said: "I would like to

"My highlight was seeing thank the entire team who the look on Andy's face as we braved the beastly run to raise all approached the finish line." such a superb amount - which

Born with a brain injury, Andy, at the time of speaking - is still 28, who underwent brain surgery aged 12 after suffering a further head injury when he was eight, "All six of them were amazing and after their nerves they has raised money for a catalogue really got into the swing of local causes, after he began things and it's fair to say they fundraising aged 14 in 2003 at St Birinus School in Didcot. They all did brilliantly to

The Leaseguard team plans to support P2G's appeal with another Monster Run next spring and other fundraising initiatives. "It was great to see such high and brilliant team spirit from all. They were a great bunch and all took it in their stride."

first taking part in one of P2G's football tournaments in 2008, said: "This race was a bit of a monster, but we started and finished it together as a team.

"Despite all the aches, pains and bruising it was a pleasure to represent P2G.

"Crawling through thick mud, swimming in murky water, climbing particularly high structures...I felt like a kid again and I loved every single minute of it."

Adding her reactions, Lesley, who suffered an injury to her shoulder at the start of the race, said: "I was very apprehensive as I didn't know what to expect.

"I was not looking forward to the bog of eternal stench, which I might add is just that – I still can't get the smell out of my clothes – and it was cold.

"The Play2Give team were awesome and spurred each other on all the way – the adrenaline and camaraderie really

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**“I honestly believe that Colourfence is the best general purpose fencing product on the market today! ”**

# Spring into Action

Now's the perfect time to replace your garden fence once and for all. Anna Ryder Richardson - Designer and Television Presenter - takes a closer look at Colourfence, the revolutionary low-maintenance system.

**I**t's been ten years since I regularly graced TV screens helping transform people's living spaces with MDF and stripped floorboards. Recently it's been more "celebrity muck out" than "celebrity make-over" as I took up the challenge of owning my own Wildlife Zoo in Tenby. In this time I've learnt quite a lot about fences and having researched the various options for my own benefit I thought I would share my knowledge with a wider audience.

The latest design processes

mean there is now a tremendous array of fencing products for you to choose from, constructed from a variety of materials. Each has its own attributes, and ultimately it can often come down to a matter of personal preference. For me, there was one unique system that stood out as providing the best balance between price and functionality which eradicates fencing problems for good. Or for at least 25 years. Colourfence. For quality, value, longevity, aesthetic design, this fencing system ticks all the boxes. Fencing made for

the 21st century that will transform the look of your garden which is supplied and fitted by a company whose customer service is as good as the product.

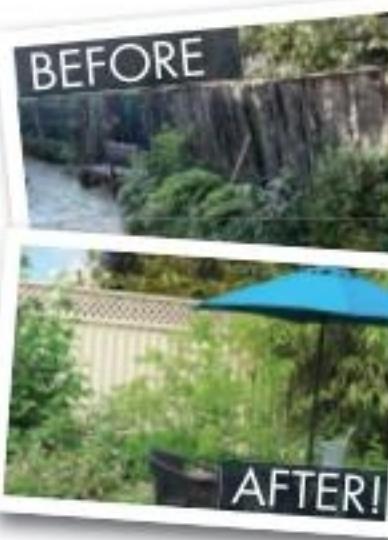
In my view, Colourfence is the 'Rolls Royce' of fencing - just without the exclusive price tag. What's more, it's guaranteed to stay in place in up to 130mph winds and is virtually maintenance free.

To find out how the experts from Colourfence might help you, I suggest you call 01865 582 171 and speak to their team.

## Colourfence: The ultimate garden fence?

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## Gardeners' Questions

**Q** Wooden fence panels just don't seem to last - is there a storm resistant alternative?

**A** The Colourfence system has been tested under cyclonic conditions to withstand storms with wind gusts up to 130mph. Unlike your wooden fence - once professionally installed - Colourfence really will stay up!

**Q** No matter what I treat my wooden fence with - nothing seems to prevent it rotting or looking shabby for very long.

**A** Treating your fence is a thankless and expensive task. It's also a losing battle. Wood simply wants to rot. Colourfence offers a low-maintenance alternative where by an occasional wash down will keep it looking great for up to 25 years! GUARANTEED!†



## THIS WEEK'S JOB

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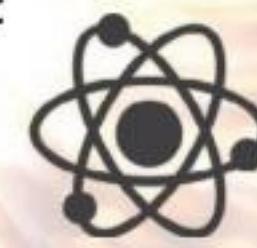
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# Poldark's horse is a star of the show

THIS year's Banbury and District Show will have a famous guest.

Seamus, the horse ridden by Poldark in the hit television show, will perform in two displays in the main arena in Spiceball Park on June 11.

In the popular show Seamus is seen cantering along Cornish clifftops but his day job is as one of the Atkinson Liberty Action Horses.

Also in the main arena will be a demonstration by dogs from the Banbury Cross Flyball Club, a fun dog show organised by the Up 'n' Over Dog Club and motorcycle daredevils Stunt Mania - a mother and son act - who promise to bring some of the best non-stop explosive action with their 'anything goes' show.

The second arena will be set aside for music, dancing and drama.

New to the event is Banbury Art Fest where 35 artists will celebrate all that's good about local arts and crafts.

Visitors will be able to watch potters, painters and weavers at work and buy their goods.

The Banbury Show is an annual favourite with residents that is organised by Banbury Town Council. It is free to enter.

Ann Sewell, Banbury Town Council's events manager, said: "The show will be a fantastic



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family day out.

"This year's event will be of the usual high standard and once again we are providing something new by way of the Arts Fest.

"The entertainment in the two arenas will be superb and there will be something for all the family."

# Average time to get to hospitals 'is 100 minutes'

By Samantha McGregor

IT takes one hour and 40 minutes for people from Banbury to travel to and park at hospitals in Oxford.

A total of 377 residents responded to a survey organised by North Oxfordshire MP Victoria Prentis to find out more about journey times for appointments.

It comes after Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group launched a consultation over proposals to reduce services at Banbury's Horton Hospital including a midwife-led maternity unit.

The survey, which was set up in January, showed the average journey of respondents took 1 hour and 20 minutes to travel from the Banbury area to an Oxford hospital, and a further 20 minutes to park.

Mrs Prentis said: "It came as no surprise to discover that the average journey time from my constituency to the Oxford



MP Victoria Prentis

hospitals, including parking, is over an hour and a half.

"The OCCG maintains that the average journey time from Banbury to Oxford is 45 minutes. The data I have collected show this to not be the case.

"The majority of my constituents live within 10 miles of the Horton General Hospital - a much-loved, well-regarded and easy to access hospital.

"The Oxford hospitals are not easily accessible for the

people of North Oxfordshire.

"It is vital that the OCCG take this into account when making any decisions about the future of NHS services in the county."

People from north Oxfordshire, south Northamptonshire and south Warwickshire took part in the survey.

The nearest journey was 12.4 miles from the John Radcliffe and the furthest was 43.4 miles. Most of those who took part lived within 10 miles of the Horton.

Mrs Prentis said the distance between Banbury and Oxford has been a key factor in determining the organisation of health services to date.

A spokesperson for Oxfordshire CCG said: "We acknowledge the initiative taken by Victoria Prentis around health journey times, which will be considered alongside other feedback and comment as part of the Oxfordshire Transformation consultation."

## News Bites

### Blitz on rubbish

**BICESTER:** Housing estate Langford Village is fresh and clean after council workers removed 18 tonnes of waste.

Cherwell District Council teams spent a week removing litter, fly-tipped waste and graffiti as part of a neighbourhood blitz.

Residents also took advantage of a free bulky waste collection service with 74 collections booked and 3.62 tonnes of large items collected.

### Bid for a grant

**THAME:** Groups and organisations are being urged to apply for a town council grant.

The scheme aims to fund projects that address the needs, aspirations and issues of the Thame community.

The deadline for applications is May 2.

### Big clean-up

**THAME:** Thame and Morten are spick and span thanks to a community effort for the Thame Tidy event.

Residents and more than 20 different groups including Scouts, Lea Park residents, Stones Close allotment holders, Thame & District Lions Club and The Grace Church turned out.

More than six tons of waste were cleared.

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# Dumped dog Vegas finds a loving home



## Who's a lucky boy?

By George Welch

A POOCH named Vegas has hit a lucky streak after finding a loving new owner in Henley-on-Thames.

The three-year-old Doberman was looking for a new home after being found as a stray last year.

Yasmin Tredell instantly fell in love with him and has since nursed him back to health.

The emaciated pup had been

taken in by the Dogs Trust weighing half his ideal weight. But he is now living the good life thanks to the love and care of Bell Street resident Yasmin.

While many dogs are often put on strict diets to lose weight, it was quite the opposite for Vegas, who was just 24kg when he arrived at the Dogs Trust centre in Evesham in November 2016.

But after being adopted by Yasmin and receiving lots of

TLC, he is now a healthy 40kg. The underweight hound had to be closely monitored by the vet team while he was under the care of Dogs Trust who put a plan in place to help him gain weight slowly.

His stomach wouldn't have been able to cope with a sudden increase in food.

Vegas now has regular visits to the vet and medical experts say they are pleased with his progress.

When Yasmin first saw Vegas, it was puppy love at first sight and she knew he was the dog for her.

They now spend their time going for long walks down by the river, taking trips to the woods and playing endless games of fetch, before finishing the day curled up on the sofa together.

Yasmin said: "Vegas is one spoilt pup and so different to the dog I met a few months ago.

"He has made such amazing progress, growing so much in confidence despite what he must have been through.

"He still has regular vet check-ups to keep track of his weight gain.

"He's very sweet natured and just wants to please everyone - he's a big softie. He makes me laugh all the time and I really couldn't imagine my life without him.

"He's my sidekick!"

## Protesters want repeal of Brexit bill

CROWDS gathered in Oxford to protest against Brexit a day before the 'Great Repeal' bill was published to formally launch the UK's departure from the EU.

A silent vigil was held at Oxford Town Hall on Wednesday evening last week over the UK government's initiation of the Brexit process.

Campaigners want the new bill revoked.

After Prime Minister Theresa May's statement on triggering Article 50, representatives from 'European Movement', an independent pro-European organisation, said: "She calls on us to come together, but the British people are not united and we do not see how the prime minister can represent us all.

"We are committed to European values and identity and we are confident that our pro-EU message is being heard. It is the government's policy which threatens the unity of our country.

"We will continue our campaign now that Article 50 has been triggered and hope to influence the debate as the negotiations proceed.

"We are conscious of the need to unify our people again and to look after the welfare of EU citizens living among us."

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## 'City reps' will boost twin links

OXFORD is recruiting city reps to get involved with the city's international links and look after its 'twins' all over the world.

Oxford is paired with five cities – Perm in Russia, Leiden in the Netherlands, Bonn in Germany, León in Nicaragua and Grenoble in France.

The city council is looking for 10 people, aged 18 to 25, to represent them and help raise awareness and engagement among their peers.

City representatives will fundraise for their trips abroad and create a website containing accounts of their travel experience and guides to all five twin cities. They will also keep an ear to the ground for all twinning activities.

Peter McQuitty, head of culture, said: "The city council is investing in improving opportunities for young people to engage in positive activities and develop the skills and ambition to achieve to the best of their abilities.

"The city rep scheme will help young people develop their digital, fundraising, communication and event management skills, as well as build their self-confidence and provide opportunities to develop friendships."

# Sparrows rule roost yet again as commonest bird in county

By George Welch

HOUSE sparrows were once again the most common bird in Oxfordshire's gardens following the RSPB's annual survey.

Results from the Big Garden Birdwatch published last Thursday showed that while the average number of sparrows recorded had stayed the same from last year, they had been seen in a higher percentage of gardens.

Blackbirds and starlings were the next most common birds, followed by wood pigeons and blue tits.

The Birdwatch ran from January 28 to 30, asking people across the country to count the different species that visit their garden over a one-hour period.

Daniel Hayhow, a conservation scientist at RSPB, said: "The sight of a robin or blackbird perched on the garden fence is often one of the first experiences we have with nature.

"So to have over half a million people taking part and counting a bumper eight million birds across one weekend is amazing.

"Using the information from the weekend we'll be able to

Bird	2017 average	per garden	2016 rank
1 House sparrow	3.9	1	
2 Blackbird	3.0	5	
3 Starling	2.8	4	
4 Wood pigeon	2.4	3	
5 Blue tit	2.3	2	
6 Goldfinch	1.7	6	
7 Robin	1.6	9	
8 Long-tailed tit	1.4	10	
9 Great tit	1.3	7	
10 Collared dove	1.1	11	

create a snapshot of how our garden birds are doing."

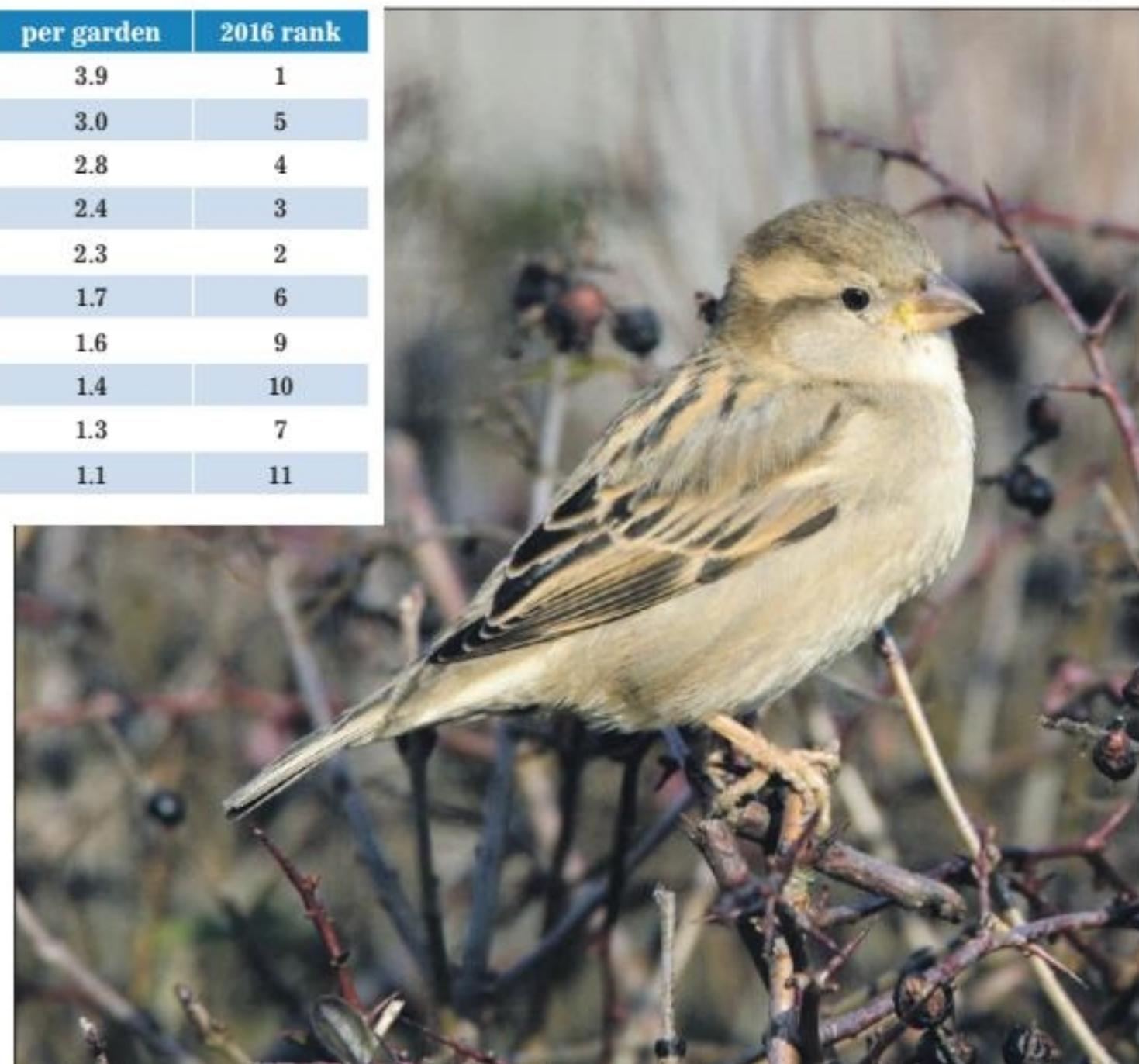
Sparrows and starlings were the top two birds seen nationally, with blackbirds in third.

The RSPB also reported an increased number of migrant birds, such as waxwings, redwings and fieldfares.

But in Oxfordshire it was a tough year for tits, with blue tits and great tits tumbling from second to fifth and seventh to ninth respectively.

RSPB officer Tim Webb said: "Gardens are an increasingly valuable resource for birds.

"Our theory is they are finding it easier to find food and shelter in gardens."



The house sparrow has again been recorded as the most common bird in Oxfordshire's gardens.  
Picture: Andy Hay

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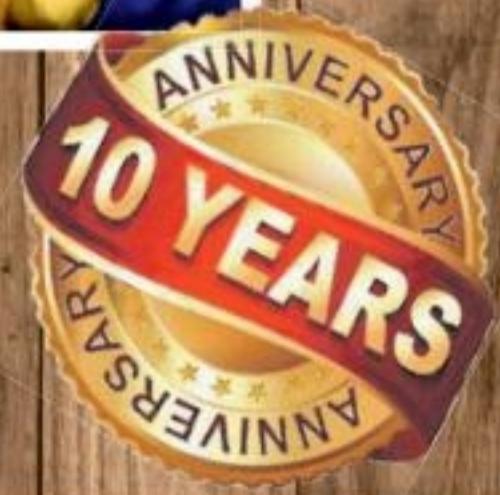
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# Golden girl Victoria helps peddle the goods at hospice's new store



Cycling star Victoria Pendleton

OLYMPIC gold medallist Victoria Pendleton will officially relaunch the relocated Sobell House warehouse on Sunday.

The cycling star will cut the ribbon and declare the store, in Murdock Road, open at noon.

Victoria, now an amateur jockey, has confessed she is a fan of upcycling, recycling and caring for the environment and offered to give up her time free in support of the Oxfordshire based charity.

The opening will include amusements for children and ice cream and cakes.

"I have always enjoyed shopping trips around charity shops since I was a young girl and am interested in fashion," said Victoria.

"I still love looking for that vintage piece and finding that all important bargain."

The new 12,000 sq ft large format store will offer a vast array

of new and used goods for homes, with all proceeds going to support the hospice charity.

Victoria will be in the store meeting guests and there will be a photo booth where customers can have a photo taken with her for a donation to Sobell House.

She will also pick out the winning tickets for a prize draw.

Head of retail at Sobell House Louise Musgrave said: "A large number of people have expressed their excitement at the new project even before the store has been ready to open.

"We have worked so hard to get this huge undertaking off the ground. We cannot wait to welcome Victoria."

Each year the hospice cares for 3,000 people from across the county. The charity's former Bicester base in Station Approach closed at the end of last year.

# Plans submitted for eco business centre

By Samantha McGregor

A PLANNING application for a £4m eco business centre aimed at helping start-up firms has been submitted.

Cherwell District Council is leading the project for the centre which, if approved, will be built at the Exemplar site – the first phase of the North West Bicester eco town, in Charlotte Avenue, off Banbury Road.

The business centre site would be almost 1,400 sqm and is located next to land designated for shop units, a pub and community centre.

The offices are expected to cater for 125 employees working as individuals or co-working.

The council is funding the project after its owner A2 Dominion was unable to get a developer interested in building and running the business centre because it is only expected to make a "modest" profit.

Cherwell said it had commissioned a feasibility study that showed it "would fulfil a niche in the market", that there was "demand" and therefore it could provide a return on investment "all be it too modest to be likely to attract a commercial developer".

The centre will be built to high



Houses being built at the site

eco standards including a zero carbon building, triple glazed windows and extra insulation. A rainwater system will be used for toilets.

The site will have a total of 21 car parking spaces and 22 cycle spaces. It is hoped work on the building will start this summer.

A report to the Bicester strategic delivery board said: "Work is also progressing on the delivery of the eco business centre to support job creation, small businesses and home working in Bicester."

"A planning application has now been submitted for the building on land at Elmsbrook, to be transferred to the district council from A2Dominion."

"A number of costs are being incurred in progressing the scheme, primarily in professional fees."

"The programme for delivery would result in a contract being entered into for the building in summer 2017 with work starting later this year and completing in 2018."

## News Bites

### Cycle crash appeal

**OXON:** Police are appealing for witnesses after a female cyclist was knocked off by a black Mercedes GLA and suffered a fractured shoulder.

The woman, who also suffered heavy bruising, has since been discharged from hospital.

The incident happened at 3.15pm on Sunday, March 26, on the B430, Weston-on-the-Green.

### Easter fun for kids

**N OXON:** Working parents can still take advantage of Cherwell's Easter hubs, which provide holiday activities for children.

A mixture of sports, arts, crafts and games keep young people happy and healthy while they are off school.

Sessions start on Monday.

For more information view [www.cherwell.gov.uk](http://www.cherwell.gov.uk)

### Design town flag

**THAME:** Residents have until Monday to submit a design for the town's new flag.

The community competition is open to anyone living, working or studying in the parish.

The new flag will be flown outside the Town Hall throughout the year, except when the flagpole is being used to mark special and significant occasions.

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This year with two days of top-class horseracing on the 21st and 22nd of April, the Dubai Duty Free Spring Trials annually unearths and showcases exciting new equine talent, earning itself a reputation as an early season highlight of the Flat racing calendar.

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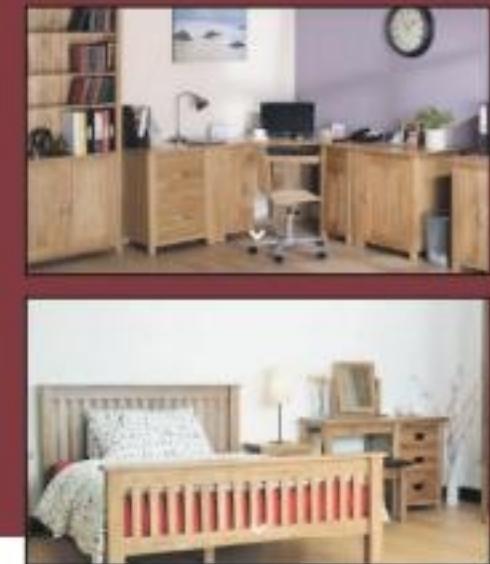
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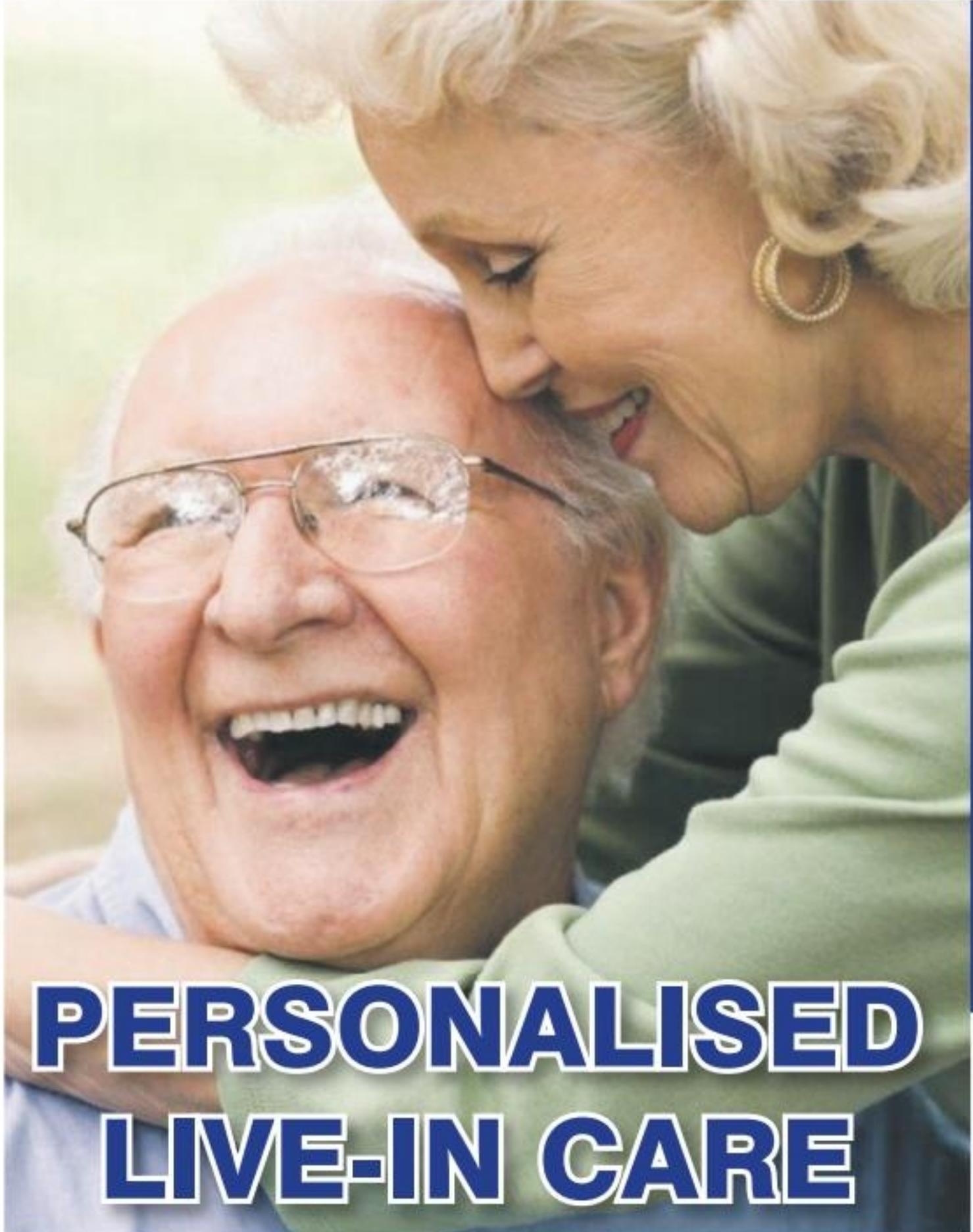
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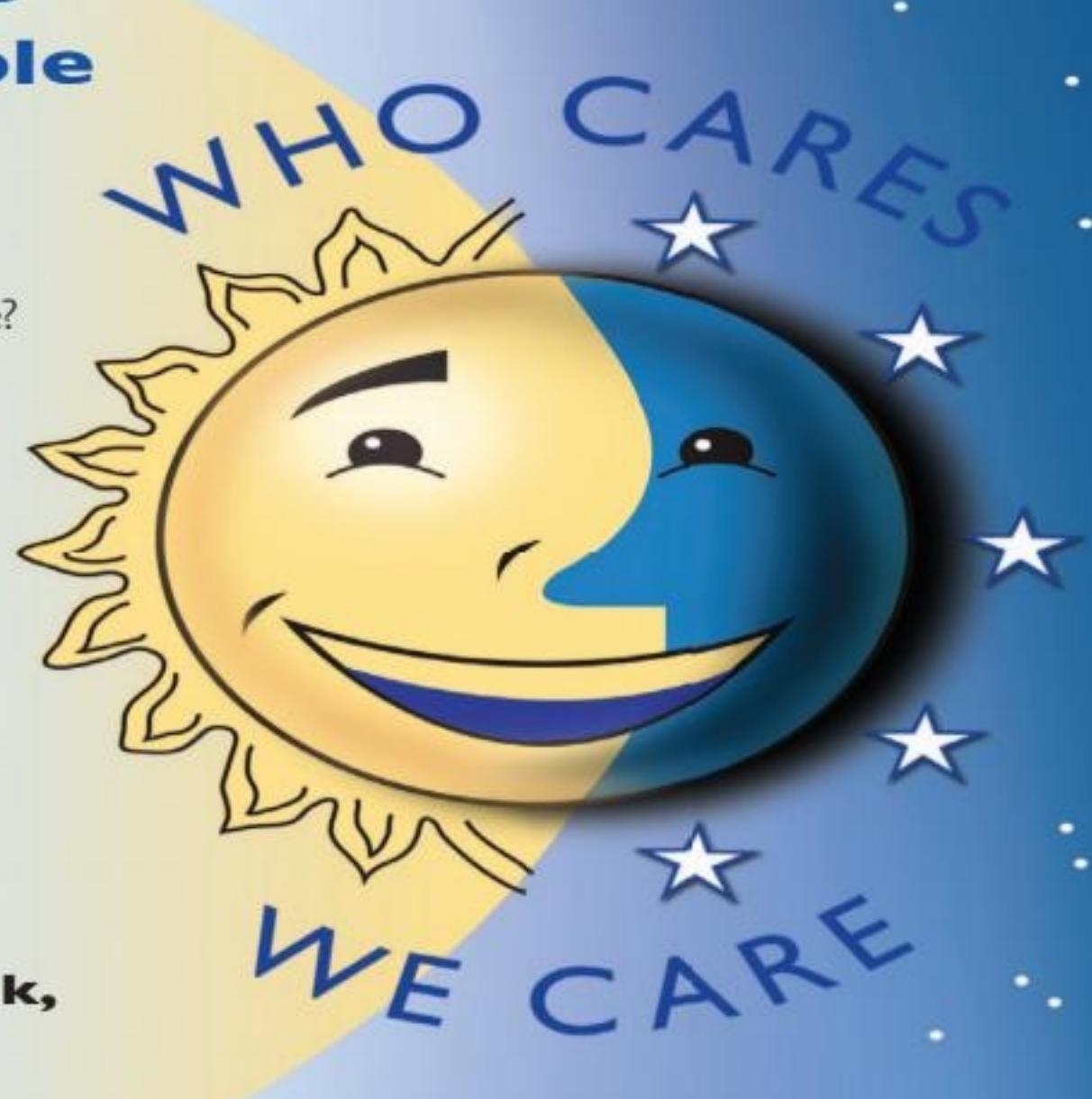
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Following a survey carried out in 2015 by Anovum (a market research company) on 1325 hearing impaired people (605 hearing aid wearers and 720 not wearing hearing aids). The survey reports that hearing aids not only improve capabilities of hearing well but also improved the general health of hearing aid wearers compare to hearing impaired people who do not wear a hearing aid.

Hearing aid users are less likely to think they have symptoms of dementia, feel less physically and mentally exhausted, sleep better and are less likely to suffer from depression.

The survey confirms what some Audiologists have suspected for some time, that hearing aids are not only good for correcting hearing loss but in fact contribute to better and more active lives, better quality of life, and better overall health.

For the hearing impaired workers who wear a hearing aid it is reported that hearing aids are useful for their job and that the hearing aids also increase the chance of them getting promoted, being in the right job and getting more salary compared to those hearing impaired people who have not obtained hearing aids.

The full report can be found at EuroTrak UK 2015- ehima



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### The mysteries of the brain: food for thought!

If you ask a group of people what makes humans different from animals and why we developed into the species we are today, you'll get a vast array of responses. These will range from the biological - that we stand on our hind legs enabling our hands to do other things than walk and we have opposable thumbs so we can use these hands with particular precision - to the cultural: we have tamed fire, we use tools and language, and we feel empathy. And underlying all of these is the human brain, and its incredible capacity to learn, remember and adapt.

The brain is a marvel of evolution and deciphering how it works is one of the greatest challenges of the 21st century. How does it change over the course of your life, and respond to your genes, experiences and the passing years to make you the person you are?

And in Oxford's Museum of Natural History which is free to visit, there's a new display 'The Brain Diaries' (until September; for age twelve and over) in which Oxford University neuroscientists share their thoughts about the mysteries of the brain looking at its development chapter-by-chapter from before birth until old age - and offering insights into what this could mean for treating nervous system and mental health disorders.

In this exhibition, you can compare the human brain with the brain of a cat, kangaroo, porpoise and other animals along the 'brain wall'. Follow too the changes that take place in the brain throughout life: see how the mind-boggling billions of neurons and trillions of connections in your brain make toddlers learn so fast, make teenagers emotional risk-takers, and allow others to settle into middle age with relief!

It's long been known that over time our ability to think quickly, to recall stored

memories, and to respond to stimuli slows down and this is because of a gradually shrinking cortex, the brain's outermost layer. From age 40, your brain shrinks by five percent a decade on average but there's still plenty of energy and learning potential which is best kept from decline through physical exercise and new experiences. From age 60, the gaps between the folds in the brain's surface become increasingly larger as the brain shrinks in volume, particularly in the frontal cortex - and you can actually see this in the 3D-printed models of the brain of one of the scientists and her family members at different stages of life!

In this month's Scientific American magazine, however, there's new research showing that some older adults have a shrink-resistant cortex, and they perform more like youngsters in memory tests. Because these people

are more resistant to age-related diseases like Alzheimer's and dementia, they should begin to give researchers some clues about the genes that keep the brain functioning better for longer, a first step developing a successful treatment of these conditions. And although the answers are likely to be a long time coming because brain health also requires a healthy way of life, keep doing the crossword and eating healthily!

And here's food for thought - when you feel happy it's down to certain chemicals in the brain and surprisingly scientists have shown that a win or an achievement may not result in the happiness you expect because the neurons - or signalling cells - actually react most to the anticipation. So however old we are, however reduced our horizons by physical or mental capacity, we can all still feel happiness by looking ahead to a meal, a visit or the warm weather of spring which is just around the corner. Enjoy!

# Puzzles



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## Two speed crossword

### Quick Clues Across

- 1 Steps (6)
- 7 Quiver (7)
- 8 Accept (7)
- 9 Attain (5)
- 10 Gave (9)
- 12 Managed (3)
- 13 Jewels (4)
- 15 Falter in speaking (7)
- 17 Hurry (4)
- 19 Untruth (3)
- 21 Agreed (9)
- 22 Soil (5)
- 23 Confounded (7)
- 24 Optimistic (7)
- 25 One of the Channel Islands (6)

### Quick Clues Down

- 1 Peeled (8)
- 2 Bowman (6)
- 3 Clothing (7)
- 4 Defy (5)
- 5 In flames (6)
- 6 Network (4)
- 7 Reference (11)
- 11 Belt (4)
- 13 Smile (4)
- 14 In a squalid manner (8)
- 16 Raise (7)
- 18 Lash (6)
- 20 Engravings (6)
- 21 Rub (5)
- 22 Resound (4)

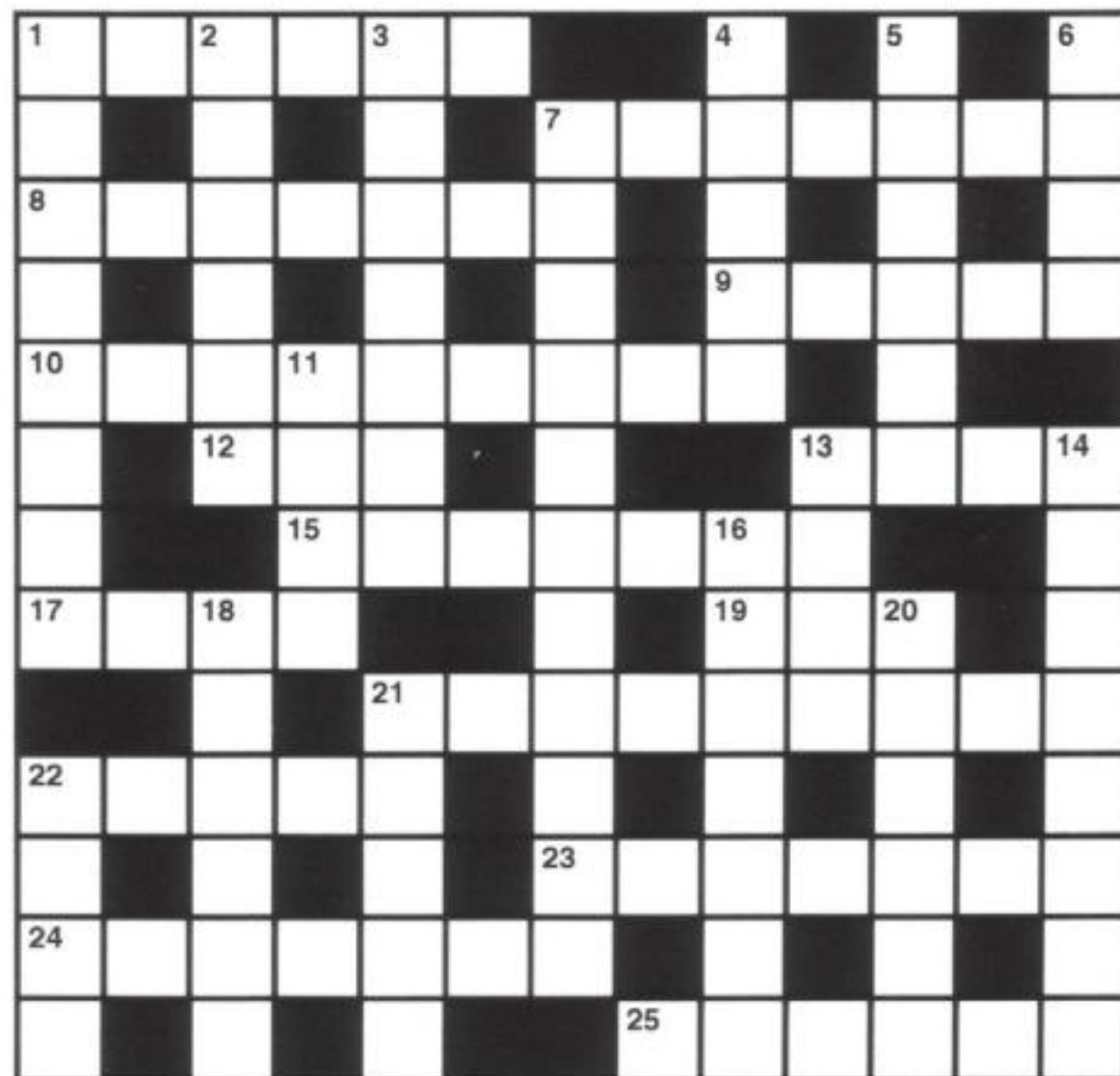
## Scribble space

### Cryptic Clues Across

- 1 Avoid the leakage (6)
- 7 The suitability of a good physical condition (7)
- 8 Piece of land or the machine to use on it (7)
- 9 A girl to go astray (5)
- 10 The Spanish have a tale men put about as basic (9)
- 12 Either way she's in seduction (3)
- 13 The waters of the mysterious East (4)
- 15 Sound pleased it's back as a foothold (7)
- 17 Join up the top of the dress (4)
- 19 Not a gross trap (3)
- 21 It's an idea that could hit the signal on the head (9)
- 22 Send a message that one road needs replanning (5)
- 23 Does she lure men to death through her knowledge or her welcoming garland? (7)
- 24 Gyrated and came to grief (7)
- 25 Some of mine are reported to be closer (6)

### Cryptic Clues Down

- 1 Aren't yet turning to prayer (8)
- 2 Cowardly number to crow after (6)
- 3 Forbearing to breathe hard around the bond (7)
- 4 Take an illicit amount of metal, it's said (5)
- 5 Give a description of the French penalty (6)
- 6 Enquires whether the fool has taken the last of the drink (4)
- 7 But is it in a brotherly tradition to really rant about after the head of the family? (11)
- 11 Think about Australian birds (4)
- 13 Throw out what we, as an afterthought, put up? (4)
- 14 See with pride how it gets faster (8)
- 16 Take away the confidence of 12 across, ever upset (7)
- 18 Abduct the youngster with a pile (6)
- 20 A real lieutenant could get higher (6)
- 21 Drilled without enthusiasm (5)
- 22 The procedure was said to be correct (4)



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# Puzzles



## Sudoku

The objective is to fill a 9×9 grid with digits so that each column, each row, and each of the nine 3×3 sub-grids that compose the grid (also called "boxes", "blocks", "regions", or "sub-squares") contains all of the digits from 1 to 9. The puzzle setter provides a partially completed grid, which for a well-posed puzzle has a unique solution.

### EASY/MEDIUM/HARD

	9			7	4	5		2
3	2			6				
	4			5	6	3		
	7	9					1	8
6		5	3					9
8	3			1	2			
	5	1	4			8		
	1					9	7	
4		8	9	2			5	

2	7			1	6			
		6						
3	5		7	1		9		
		6		3	2			
2						6		
9		6		3				
8		4	5	2	9			
		1						
6	4			5	1			

5			6			1		
	9	1	4		2			
	4	2	9	1	5	7		
1		6	5	3	9	8	1	7
3	6	8	2	9	4	5	7	1
8	7	1	4	5	6	2	9	3
9	4	6	7	2	3	8	5	1
1	5	9	7	4	8	9	7	6
7	8	3	1	4	2	9	5	6

### This week's solutions

9	1	5	8	6	7	3	2	4
2	7	4	3	1	5	6	9	8
5	9	2	3	1	7	6	8	4
3	6	8	2	9	4	5	7	1
8	7	1	4	5	6	2	9	3
9	4	6	7	2	3	8	5	1
1	5	9	7	4	8	9	7	6
2	5	3	1	4	2	9	5	6
7	8	3	1	6	9	5	4	2

3	6	4	9	8	2	5	1	5
5	9	2	3	1	7	6	8	4
4	7	1	4	5	6	2	9	3
8	3	6	8	2	9	4	5	7
9	4	1	6	7	2	3	8	5
1	5	9	7	4	8	9	6	3
7	8	3	1	6	9	5	4	2
2	5	6	4	3	7	8	1	8
6	9	1	4	7	3	2	8	5

1	7	8	6	2	9	1	5	3
2	6	3	1	5	8	4	9	7
9	5	1	4	3	7	8	2	6
8	3	9	7	4	1	2	6	5
6	1	2	5	8	3	7	4	9
7	4	6	7	2	3	8	5	1
5	8	4	2	9	3	6	7	6
3	2	5	6	1	6	9	7	4
1	9	6	3	7	4	5	8	2

Quick Crossword  
Across: 1. Escaped 7. Friend 8. Tractor 9. Arms  
10. Embroider 11. Sun 13. Seas 15. Stump  
16. Lumber 18. Lure 19. Net 21. Bratwurst  
22. Radio 24. Trap 25. Nester  
26. Snipe 27. Scream 28. Radish  
29. Sausage 30. Sneeze 31. Gin  
32. Absurd 34. Hopital 25. Jersey  
33. Absorbed 34. Hopped 22. Earth  
34. Solitary 16. Everlast 18. Snipe 20. Eelies  
35. Absolve 6. Mesh 7. Terminal 4. Beard  
36. Stripped 2. Archer 3. Rummage 4. Beard  
37. Striped 7. Train 13. Games 15. Summer  
38. Dabs 19. Lie 21. Crossword 22. Earth  
39. Absent 12. Run 13. Games 15. Summer  
40. Access: 1. Solved 7. Terrible 8. Receive 9. Read  
41. Access: 1. Escaped 7. Friend 8. Tractor 9. Arms  
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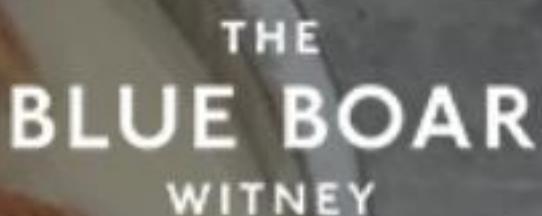
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**WEEKEND**  
TV GUIDE



## A Dahl-ing of a show!

Roald Dahl's classic *Fantastic Mr Fox* comes to the Oxford Playhouse next week. See inside for more

**Free Grand National supplement in today's**

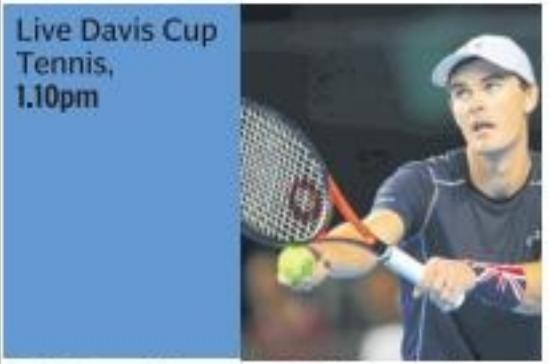
# THE OXFORD PAPER

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## Saturday April 8th

## BBC1



6.00 Breakfast (S) 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live (S) 11.30 Mary Berry Everyday (S)(R) 12.00 Football Focus (S) 1.00 BBC News; Weather (S) 1.10 Live Davis Cup Tennis (S) 4.30 Final Score (S) 5.15 **FILM** Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (2008) (PG) Animated comedy sequel, with the voice of Ben Stiller. (S) 6.35 BBC News (S) 6.45 BBC Regional News; Weather (S) 6.50 Pointless Celebrities (S)

## DAYTIME

7

7.40 Who Dares Wins Game show in which strangers pair up to win money. Last in the series. (S)

8

8.25 Casualty Connie makes an effort to show how much she cares on Grace's birthday. (S)

9

9.15 All Round to Mrs Brown's Ross Kemp, Kevin Bridges and his mother Patricia, Steve Backshall and Pixie Lott join Agnes and her brood in the studio for a chat. (S)

10

10.15 BBC News; Weather; (S) National Lottery Update (S) 10.30 Match of the Day Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches. (S)

11

11.55 **FILM** I Am Number Four (2011) (12) Sci-fi thriller, starring Alex Pettyfer and Timothy Olyphant. (S)

12

1.40 Weather for the Week Ahead (S) 1.45 BBC News (S)

## BBC2

11.10, 12am



11.00 Homes Under the Hammer (S)(R) 12.00 Raymond Blanc: How to Cook Well (S)(R) 12.30 The Best Dishes Ever (S)(R) 1.00 Golf: The Masters Highlights (S) 2.00 Flog It! (S)(R) 3.00 University Challenge (S)(R) 3.30 Only Connect (S)(R) 4.00 Gardeners' World (S)(R) 4.30 Live Davis Cup Tennis (S) 5.30 Amazing Hotels: Life Beyond the Lobby (S)(R) 6.30 Hotel Armadillo: Natural World (S)(R)

7.30

Golf: The Masters Live Coverage of the third day from the Augusta National in Georgia, as the opening Major of the year continues. (S)

9

10

11

12

12.00 **FILM** Ilo Ilo (2013) (12) Drama, starring Yann Yann Yeo. 1.35 This Is BBC Two (S) 5.35 An Island Parish (S) (R)

## ITV

Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway, 7pm



10.25 James Martin's French Adventure (S)(R) 11.25 Best Walks with a View with Julia Bradbury (S)(R) 12.00 **ITV News**; Weather (S) 12.10 **FILM** Carry On at Your Convenience (1971) (PG) 2.00 **ITV Racing - Grand National Festival** (S) 4.35 **ITV Racing Live: The Grand National** (S) 6.15 **ITV Regional News**; Weather (S) 6.20 **ITV News** (S) 6.30 New You've Been Framed! (S)(R)

7.00

Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway The popular duo's entertainment show bows out in a live finale from Disney World, Florida (S)

8.30

An Evening with Take That A performance by the pop group, featuring new material and special versions of some of their most popular hits. (S)

9.35

**FILM** King Kong (2005) (12) Peter Jackson's remake of the fantasy adventure, with Naomi Watts and Jack Black. (S)

10.35

**ITV News**; Weather (S) 10.45 **FILM** King Kong (2005) (12) Concluded. (S)

1.15

Jackpot247 3.00 Who's Doing the Dishes? (S)(R) 3.50 **ITV Nightscreen**

12.25

Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA (S)(R) 1.15 Million Pound Motors (S)(R) 2.10 Hollyoaks (S)(R) 4.15 Phil Spencer: Secret Agent (S)(R) 5.10 Kirstie's Vintage Gems (S)(R) 5.20 Fifteen to One (S)(R)

## Channel 4

Dredd, 10.35pm



7.40 Everybody Loves Raymond (S) (R) 8.30 Frasier (S)(R) 9.30 The Big Bang Theory (S)(R) 10.55 The Simpsons (S)(R) 12.25 Extreme Food (S) 1.00 Formula 1 Chinese Grand Prix Qualifying Highlights (S) 2.30 A Place in the Sun: Summer Sun (S)(R) 3.30 Location, Location, Location (S) (R) 4.30 Grand Designs (S)(R) 5.35 Channel 4 News (S) 6.05 Escape to the Chateau (S)(R)

7.00

Penelope Keith at Her Majesty's Service The actress visits Hillsborough Castle, the Queen's official residence in Northern Ireland. (S)(R)

8.00

**FILM** Battleship (2012) (12)

Sci-fi adventure, with Taylor Kitsch, Liam Neeson and Alexander Skarsgård. Edited for language and violence. (S)

10.35

**FILM** Dredd (2012) (18) A law enforcer in a post-apocalyptic city must fight his way out of a tower block dominated by a ruthless crime lord. Sci-fi thriller, starring Karl Urban. (S)

12.00

SuperCasino 3.10 Inside St Paul's Cathedral (S)(R) 4.00 Yorkshire: A Year in the Wild (S)(R) 4.50 House Doctor (S)(R) 5.15 Wildlife SOS (S)(R) 5.40 Angels of Jarm (S)(R) 5.50 Roary the Racing Car (S)(R)

## Channel 5

Football on 5: The Championship, 9pm



6.00 Milkshake! 10.05 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles (S) 10.40 Access (S) 10.50 Police Interceptors: Unleashed (S)(R) 11.20 Police Interceptors (S)(R) 1.20 On Benefits: Life on the Dole (S)(R) 4.20 Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords A woman whose unruly tenants try to sue her after being served an eviction notice. (S)(R) 5.15 Can't Pay? Well Take It Away (S)(R)

7.10 **NCIS: Los Angeles** Part one of two. Kensi is a suspect in the murder of a marine sergeant. (S)

8.00 **NCIS** The Secretary of the Navy's daughter is kidnapped. (S)

8.55 5 News Weekend (S)

9.00 Football on 5: The Championship George Riley and Lynsey Hipgrave introduce highlights from the weekend's games in the Championship. (S)

10.00 Football on 5: Goal Rush (S) 10.30 The Funny Side of Love and Sex Including thoughts and opinions from Johnny Vegas, Nish Kumar and Nina Wadia. (S)

11.30 Comedy Bigmouths with Russell Kane (S)

11.55 Access Showbiz news and gossip. (S)

12.00 SuperCasino 3.10 Inside St Paul's Cathedral (S)(R) 4.00 Yorkshire: A Year in the Wild (S)(R) 4.50 House Doctor (S)(R) 5.15 Wildlife SOS (S)(R) 5.40 Angels of Jarm (S)(R) 5.50 Roary the Racing Car (S)(R)

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## DIGITAL

## ITV2 SKY: 118 FV: 6

6.00 You've Been Framed! Gold 6.20 Emmerdale 8.50 Coronation Street 11.15 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway 12.45 Britain's Got Talent: Stephen's Top 10 Unbelievable Talents 1.45 You've Been Framed! Gold 2.15 Hairspray Live! 4.45 **FILM**: The Princess Diaries 2: Royal Engagement (2004) (U) Family comedy sequel, starring Anne Hathaway. 5.45 **FYI** Daily 5.50 **FILM**: The Princess Diaries 2: Royal Engagement (2004) (U) Concluded. 7.00 Scorpion 8.00 **FILM**: Burlesque (2010) (12) Musical drama, starring Cher and Christina Aguilera. 9.00 **FYI** Daily 9.05 **FILM**: Burlesque (2010) (12) Concluded. 10.35 **Celebrity Juice** 11.15 **Family Guy** 12.40 **American Dad!** 1.40 **The Cleveland Show** 2.05 **Ibiza Weekender** 2.50 **Teleshopping** 5.50 **ITV2 Nightscreen**

## ITV3 SKY: 119 FV: 10

6.00 **Judge Judy** 6.40 **Murder, She Wrote** 7.30 **Agatha Christie's Sparkling Cyanide** 9.30 **FILM**: The Railway Children (1970) (U) Period family drama, starring Jenny Agutter. 10.30 **FYI** Daily 10.35 **FILM**: The Railway Children (1970) (U) Concluded. 11.45 **Heidi** 1.50 **Agatha Christie's Marple** 3.55 **Rosemary & Thyme** 4.55 **Endeavour** 7.00 **Lewis** 11.00 **Les Dawson Forever** 12.00 **Colditz** 2.00 **ITV3 Nightscreen** 2.30 **Teleshopping**

## BBC4 SKY: 116 FV: 9

7.00 **The Silk Road** 8.00 **Dust Storm** 8.45 **Wild Scotland** 9.00 **FILM**: Department Q: The Keeper of Lost Causes (2013) (15) Murder mystery, starring Nikolaj Lie Kaas. 10.30 **Top of the Pops**: 1983 11.40 **Psychedelic Britannia** 12.45 **Totally 60s Psychedelic Rock** at the BBC 1.45 **Pink Floyd Beginnings** 1967 - 1972 2.45 **Psychedelic Britannia** 3.45 **Close**

## E4 SKY: 136 FV: 28

6.00 **Rude(ish) Tube** 6.45 **How I Met Your Mother** 7.35 **Baby Daddy** 8.30 **Black-ish** 9.00 **Made in Chelsea** 10.00 **FILM**: Clueless (1995) (12) Comedy, starring Alicia Silverstone. 12.00 **Melissa & Joey** 2.30 **The Goldbergs** 5.00 **The Big Bang Theory** 9.00 **FILM**: Transporter 2 (2005) (15) Action thriller sequel, starring Jason Statham. 10.45 **Gogglebox** 12.55 **Rude Tube**: Heroes and Villains 2.00 **Naked Attraction** 2.55 **Marvel's Agents of SHIELD** 3.40 **The Goldbergs** 4.00 **Baby Daddy** 5.05 **How I Met Your Mother**

## MORE4 SKY: 138 FV: 14

8.55 **Come Dine with Me** 11.30 **Homes by the Sea** 12.35 **Location, Location, Location** 1.35 **Coast vs Country** 2.40 **Four in a Bed** 5.20 **Come Dine with Me** 8.00 **Hunt for the Arctic Ghost Ship** 9.00 **Titanic: The New Evidence** 10.05 **The World's Most Extreme** 11.10 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown 12.15 **Father Ted** 1.15 **Hunt for the Arctic Ghost Ship** 2.20 **Titanic: The New Evidence** 3.20 8 Out of 10 Cats Uncut 4.00 **Close**

## FILM4 SKY: 315 FV: 15

11.00 **Catch That Kid** (2004) (PG) Comedy adventure, starring Kristen Stewart. 1.00 **Ferris Bueller's Day Off** (1986) (15) Comedy, starring Matthew Broderick. 3.05 **Dragonball Evolution** (2009) (PG) Fantasy adventure, starring Justin Chatwin. 4.45 **Tooth Fairy** (2010) (PG) Family comedy, starring Dwayne Johnson. 6.55 **Tower Heist** (2011) (12) Crime comedy, with Ben Stiller and Eddie Murphy. 9.00 **The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn - Part 2** (2012) (12) Romantic fantasy sequel, with Kristen Stewart and Robert Pattinson. 11.15 **An American Werewolf in London** (1981) (18) Horror comedy, with David Naughton. 1.15 **Isolation** (2005) (15) 3.10 **Close**

## DAVE SKY: 111 FV: 12

7.10 **Scrapheap Challenge** 8.00 **Deadly 60** 10.00 **Top Gear** 12.00 **Traffic Cops** 2.00 **Storage Hunters UK** 2.30 **Storage Hunters** 3.00 **Storage Hunters UK** 3.30 **Storage Hunters** 4.00 **Storage Hunters UK** 4.30 **Storage Hunters** 5.00 **Top Gear** 7.00 **Not Going Out** 9.00 **FILM**: Lethal Weapon 3 (1992) (15) Action thriller sequel, with Mel Gibson and Danny Glover. 11.20 **Live at the Apollo** 12.20 **Alan Davies: As Yet Untitled** 1.20 **Mock the Week** 2.00 **Not Going Out** 3.00 **Suits** 4.00 **Close**

## DRAMA SKY: 158 FV: 20

7.10 **Secret Army** 11.00 **Sharpe** 1.00 **Secret Army** 5.00 **FILM**: 10 Little Indians (1974) (PG) Agatha Christie mystery, starring Oliver Reed. 7.00 **Hetty Wainthropp Investigates** 8.00 **The Mrs Bradley Mysteries** 9.00 **Taggart** 11.05 **Waking the Dead** 1.10 **Hetty Wainthropp Investigates** 2.10 **Sharpe** 4.00 **Home Shopping**

## SKY1 SKY: 106

6.00 **Hawaii Five-0** 7.45 **Monkey Business** 8.15 **Game Changers** 8.45 **The Fantasy Football Club** 9.45 **Soccer AM** 11.30 **Live Premier League**,

## Sunday April 9th

## BBC1

Countryfile,  
7pm

## DAYTIME

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AFTER

6.00 Breakfast (S) 7.30 Match of the Day (S)(R) 9.00 The Andrew Marr Show (S) 10.00 The Big Questions (S) 11.00 Wanted Down Under (S) 12.00 Bargain Hunt (S)(R) 1.00 BBC News; Weather (S) 1.15 Homes Under the Hammer (S)(R) 2.15 Countryfile Spring Diaries (S)(R) 3.00 Flog It! (S)(R) 4.00 Escape to the Country (S) 5.00 Songs of Praise (S) 5.35 Galapagos (S)(R) 6.35 BBC News (S) 6.50 BBC Regional News (S)

7.00 Countryfile The team are in Holderness in the east Riding of Yorkshire. (S)

8.00 Antiques Roadshow Fiona Bruce presents the show from Pembroke Castle in South Wales. (S)

9.00 Line of Duty Kate is approached by a woman who claims to have been assaulted by Michael, while Steve challenges Roz's husband to vouch for her whereabouts on the night Tim Field disappeared. (S)

10.00 BBC News (S)

10.20 BBC Regional News; Weather (S)

10.30 Match of the Day 2 Mark Chapman reviews the latest Premier League action. (S)

11.30 I'm Different: Let Me Drive The stories of two learner drivers on the autistic spectrum. (S)

12.00 Weather for the Week Ahead (S) 12.05 BBC News (S)

## BBC2

Live Davis Cup  
Tennis, 1pm

6.05 The Beechgrove Garden (S) 6.35 Around the World in 80 Gardens (S)(R) 7.35 Gardeners' World (S)(R) 8.05 Countryfile (S)(R) 9.15 Saturday Kitchen Best Bites (S) 10.45 Triathlon World Series Highlights (S) 12.15 MOTD2 Extra (S) 1.00 Live Davis Cup Tennis France v Great Britain. (S) 6.30 Golf: The Masters Live Coverage of the fourth day from the Augusta National in Georgia. (S)

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# ENTERTAINMENT & LISTINGS

## Fantastic Mr Fox and friends

By Samantha McGregor

A NEW adaptation of Roald Dahl's story Fantastic Mr Fox takes to the Oxford stage this Easter.

Created to celebrate what would have been the writer's 100th birthday, the show is staged at the Oxford Playhouse from Tuesday, April 11, to Saturday, April 15.

This musical adaptation delivers family fun at its finest, with funky modern costumes and impressive songs for a fun filled Easter show recognising and celebrating the power of friendship.

This brilliantly witty tale of the clever Mr Fox outsmarting three greedy farmers is brought to life on stage with live music and songs.

Accompanied by a barbershop quartet and band, the light-footed hero must overcome all kinds of obstacles to save all his furry friends.

As the farmers approach from above ground, can he hatch a plan with his band of friends and dig everyone out?

Putting all his agility, cunning and stealth to the test, and his friendships too, can he still outfox the farmers?

Marking the centenary year of the world's number one storyteller, this brand new family show is a playful retelling of Dahl's much-loved book.

With Dahl's stories available in 58

Mr Fox and friends are coming to the Oxford Playhouse next week  
Picture: Manuel Harlan



languages and having sold more than 250million books, his stories are known the world over with many having been adapted for stage and screen.

The theatrical adaptation of Fantastic Mr Fox is for children aged five and over and was created by Nuffield and Curve in association

with Lyric Hammersmith.

Dahl's book was originally published in 1970 and made into a film in 2009 with voices by George Clooney, Meryl Streep, Bill Murray, Willem Dafoe, Michael Gambon, and Owen Wilson.

He started publishing books in the early 1960s - among those that have

also been huge successes on stage and screen include the BFG, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory and Matilda.

Tickets for Fantastic Mr Fox at Oxford Playhouse start at £12 and are available from the ticket office on 01865 305305 or book online at oxfordplayhouse.com

### Join a 70's party

**THEATRE:** Mike Leigh's classic tale Abigail's Party takes to the stage at the Oxford Playhouse from Monday, running until Saturday, April 8.

It stars Amanda Abbington, who is best known for playing Mary in Sherlock, and is directed by Sarah Esdaile.

Tickets cost from £15 and are available from the Box Office on 01865 305305 or view oxfordplayhouse.com

### First UK tour

**MUSICAL:** The New Theatre has announced it will host a production of new musical Son of a Preacher Man as it embarks on its first UK tour.

The show, set in the 1960s, with music by Dusty Springfield and directed and choreographed by Craig Revel Horwood, takes to the stage from October 24 to 28.

It's the story of The Preacher Man, the owner of a Soho joint where the kids danced the night away to the latest crazes and dared to dream of love.

Strictly Come Dancing judge Revel Horwood said: "I am delighted to bring to life for the very first time this wonderful story created by Warner Brown, with soulful songs from the legendary Dusty Springfield's iconic music catalogue."

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# ENTERTAINMENT & LISTINGS

## Feast on sound of fiddles

By Samantha McGregor

IN 1994 Feast of Fiddles was formed for a one-off concert ensemble – this year the group is embarking on its 24th spring tour.

And kicking off the tour, the band will perform at Nettlebed Village Club – the place where they came together for the first time - for two nights on April 3 and 4.

Taking in 10 venues this month, this latest tour coincides with the release of their sixth studio album entitled *Sleight of Elbow*.

And it's something of a departure for the band as it features a lot of original compositions and only one traditional tune.

The title track of Feast of Fiddles latest offering is one of two pieces by guitarist Martin Vincent which was first aired during the 2016 spring tour – the tour that Martin missed because he was in hospital having a heart valve fitted.

McBrides is a tune from the band Moving Hearts while Scottish band The McCalmans provide the first of only three songs on this recording – Smugglers Song, a rousing tale of smugglers going about their business complete with engaging chorus.

Previously likened to a "group of geography teachers", fiddlers Peter



**Feast of Fiddles are back in Nettlebed**  
Picture: Wandering River

Knight of Steeleye Span, Chris Leslie of Fairport Convention, Phil Beer, Show of Hands, Brian McNeill of Battlefield Band, Ian Cutler of Bully Wee, Tom Leary of Lindisfarne and Garry Blakeley of Band of Two, add their extensive range of fiddle playing styles to the rock back-line of guitars, keyboards, sax and accordion – all held together by legendary drummer Dave Mattacks.

Talking to the Oxfordshire

Guardian, Feast of Fiddles said: "Feast of Fiddles was born at Nettlebed Folk Club following a discussion between band leader Hugh Crabtree and club organiser Mike Sanderson.

"Both agreed it was a good idea to put half a dozen of the country's leading fiddle players in front of Hugh's ceilidh band.

"Hugh and the ceilidh band lived in and around Reading and Hugh had a long involvement with the club and the

local live music scene.

"Now, 24 years later the gig that started as a one off has become something of a folk-rock institution.

"Audiences love to see the well-known musicians in a different and sometimes quite challenging context.

"They also love the very wide range of musical genres touched by the band."

For more information view [feastoffiddles.co.uk](http://feastoffiddles.co.uk)

### Auntie goes on sale

**THEATRE:** Tickets have gone on sale for the stage version of David Walliams' *Awful Auntie*.

It's the story of Stella who goes to London with her parents, but wakes up three months later with only her Aunt Alberta who can tell her what happened.

But is all she is being told true?

The show comes to Oxford's New Theatre from October 11 to 14.

For more call 0844 871320 or view [atgtickets.com/oxford](http://atgtickets.com/oxford)

### Feastival line-up

**FESTIVAL:** Food and family festival The Big Feastival has announced some of its line-up for this summer's event.

Taking to the stage over the August bank holiday weekend are musicians including Haçienda Classical, Madness, Olly Murs and De La Soul.

While celebrity chefs Rick Stein and Antonio Carluccio are also on the bill along with the Great British Bake-Off winner from 2016.

The Big Feastival takes place at Alex James Farm in the Cotswolds. For more view [bigfeastival.com](http://bigfeastival.com)

Email your entertainment news to [jamesr@taylornewspapers.co.uk](mailto:jamesr@taylornewspapers.co.uk)

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More info? Phone 01993 851002 or Email [standlakearena@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:standlakearena@hotmail.co.uk)

# ENTERTAINMENT & LISTINGS

## Unique way to honour 100th anniversary

By Samantha McGregor

A LIFE-SIZE horse puppet from the hit production War Horse has made its first visit to Oxford to help launch its city premiere.

The National Theatre's acclaimed production of War Horse, based on the novel by Michael Morpurgo will be staged at Oxford's New Theatre from December 13 to January 6, 2018 as part of a major UK tour.

Last week Joey, the life-size equine puppet from War Horse made a special early morning appearance at Oxford University's Bodleian Library followed by a puppetry demonstration at the New Theatre.

Joey and Songman then travelled to Woodstock to help launch the Cotswold Hare Trail at the Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum alongside Toyah Willcox.

War Horse is the powerful story of a young boy called Albert and his beloved horse, Joey, who was requisitioned to fight for the British in the First World War.

Caught in enemy crossfire, Joey ends up serving on both sides during the war before landing in No Man's Land, while Albert, not old enough to enlist, embarks on a treacherous mission to find his horse and bring him home.

War Horse is the remarkable tale of courage, loyalty and friendship, and is brought to life by ground-breaking puppetry by South Africa's Handspring Puppet Company.

War Horse was adapted for stage by Nick Stafford and directed by Marianne Elliott and Tom Morris.

Producer Kash Bennet said: 'We are absolutely delighted to be bringing War Horse to the New Theatre.'

*The cast of War Horse warm up in Oxford ahead of the Christmas show*



"We hope that with Joey's appearances in the city, we can bring the people of Oxfordshire a taste of the theatrical magic and artistry that Oxford audiences can look forward to with this very special show."

Dean Stewart, General Manager at the New Theatre said: "The reaction from our audience has been

overwhelming and tickets have been cantering out the door."

"It is an outstanding production that has enthralled audiences around the world, and I am sure it will do the same here in the city of dreaming spires later in the year."

War Horse ran for eight successful years in London, and has been seen by

over 7 million people worldwide since its premiere at the National Theatre in 2007.

The tour of War Horse coincides with the Centenary commemorations of the end of the First World War.

For more information or tickets view [atgtickets.com/oxford](http://atgtickets.com/oxford) or call 0844 871 3020.

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Wed 10th - Sat 20th May, 7.45pm.

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Full details: [pendonmuseum.com](http://pendonmuseum.com)



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### Looking Further Ahead & Diary Dates

29 April to 1 May - Child 3-15yrs with Teddy FREE  
21 May - Senior 60+yrs just £5pp  
27 May - History & Nature Railcar Child £1  
28 to 29 May - Child 3-15yrs £1  
3 to 4 June - Railway Open Days FREE  
18 June - Dad travels FREE

[www.chinnorailway.co.uk](http://www.chinnorailway.co.uk)



## Thame Country Fair Easter Sunday & Monday April 16th & 17th 2017 Open Daily 10am – 6pm

Three action packed main arenas are at the Easter Thame Game & Country Fair. Looking for excitement and a superb day out over Easter, then join us on Sunday and Monday April 16th – 17th at the Thame Showground, OX9 3JL.

Jonathan Marshalls Free Spirit Show joins us for the first time with a stunning display of horsemanship & falconry. Completing the line up in the Andy Singleton arena are the Pony Club with their Mounted Games, the Horseboarding and the Scurry Racing Championships.

the Countryside and World of Dog arenas both host a full day's schedule. Shire horses and Falconry, Gun Dogs, dog display teams to name a few of the outstanding displays. Loving around the showground, there's such lot to see and do.

Have a go at a wide range of Country Sports such as Falconry, Fishing, Archery, Shooting, Dog Handling and join in the competitions. Enjoy the Food Show where there's even chefs on stage, the Craft Village and the Chainsaw Carving competitions.

Yes there's lots to see, lots to do and lots to buy

A superb family day out at the Thame Game & Country Fair at Thame Showground, Kingsley Road, Thame, Oxon, OX9 3JL

Sunday & Monday April 16th & 17th  
10am – 6pm Daily

Prices on the day are: Adults £14, Over 65s £13 and Children £4. Reduced price advance tickets available from:

[Livingheritagecountryshows.com](http://Livingheritagecountryshows.com)  
Tel: 01283 820548

## Join in with 'Auto Science' fun at the British Motor Museum this Easter!

Visitors are invited to join in with some 'cracking' fun activities this Easter at the British Motor Museum from 8 – 23 April. From interactive science shows to some 'egg-tastic' fun with Shaun the Sheep, there's plenty to keep the whole family entertained. So don't miss out - book Museum tickets online today!

Visitors can watch science being brought to life in a 25 minute Sublime Science Show, from Monday 10 – Thursday 13 April & Tuesday 18 – Friday 21 April, at 11am, 12pm, 2pm & 3pm. These shows are full of cool interactive demonstrations and hands on activities where visitors will get the chance to make smoke rings, bubbles and slime! Also on these dates is 'Technic Challenge', a drop-in activity (10am to 3pm) where children can get hands-on and design, build and test their own LEGO® Technic machines. They can then race them along the 'Track' with the fastest car of the day winning the title 'Champion Designer' as well as a small prize.

Also available each day throughout the Easter holidays is the Auto Science 'Secret Trail' which visitors can complete to discover the secrets of making cars, and Family Tours with the 'Mad Scientist' available every day at 10:45am and 1:30pm.

Easter wouldn't be Easter without a traditional Easter Egg hunt! Visitors can help Shaun the Sheep and his flock find the eggs hidden around the Museum. For those who like a crafty activity they can have a go at 'hatching your own car!'. These activities are only available over the Easter Weekend from 14 – 17 April.

Easter visitors can also enter the Museum's Shaun the Sheep Selfie competition, simply take a selfie in the Museum wearing a Shaun the Sheep headband to be in with a chance

of winning Aardman's brand new Shaun the Sheep DVD, 'Spoilsport'. This new DVD, on sale from 10 April, offers even more outrageous inventiveness, sheepish shenanigans and panic in the pasture. Don't miss your appointment for more fun with Shaun the Sheep.

Emma Rawlinson, Life Long Learning Officer for the British Motor Museum stated "With a whole host of family friendly activities including shows, trails and egg hunt, we have plenty on offer this Easter to keep everyone entertained whatever the weather!" All activities are included in the Museum admission price and no pre-booking is required. During busy periods, however, all activities will be on a timed ticket basis and subject to availability, as places are limited. To avoid disappointment please check on arrival. Online Museum tickets are now available, see website for full details. For more information about Easter activities please visit [www.britishmotormuseum.co.uk](http://www.britishmotormuseum.co.uk) or call 01926 641188.



# Spring Lamb at Millets Farm



From next week Millets in house butchery begin their seasonal offering of fresh Spring Lamb.

This exceptional time of year is celebrated with counter displays offering cuts of Lamb both "on and off" the bone as well as weather dependant offerings such as Lamb Burgers, kebabs and marinated Lamb dishes providing the weather stays fair!

Daren Fisher – Millets Farm.

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*The Countryside Comes to Life at ...*

# The Thame Country Fair

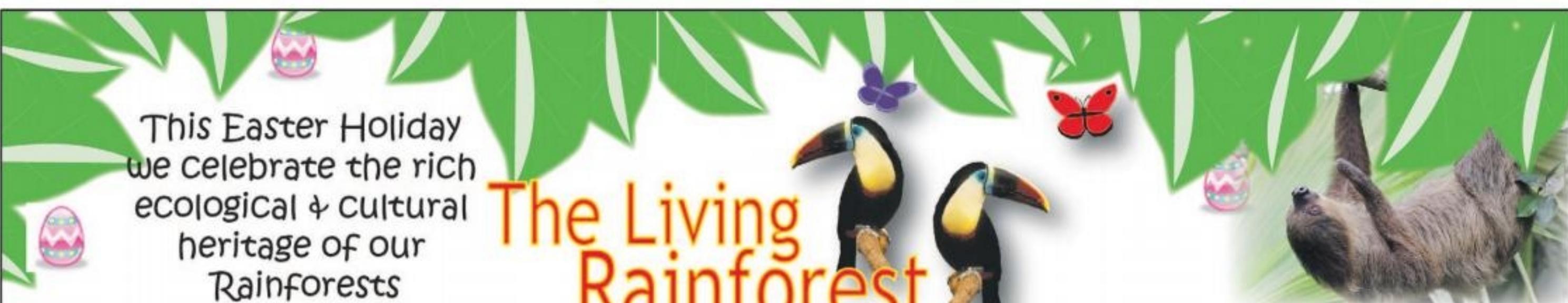
  
*The Jonathan Marshall Free Spirit Show at The Thame Country Fair*

- A large Country Fair with All day entertainment in the three Main Show Arenas by some of the countrysides top names and organisations
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# ENTERTAINMENT & LISTINGS

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Mon, Apr 3 – Sat, Apr 8  
Oxford Playhouse, Oxford

## ABIGAIL'S PARTY

Amanda Abbington stars in Mike Leigh's undisputed classic, Abigail's Party.

It's 40 years since the appalling Beverly first put Donna Summer on the turntable, stacked a plate with little cheesy-pineapple sticks, plied her guests with alcohol, cigarettes and Dennis Roussos and slow-danced her way across the shag-pile into theatrical history. The drinks party from hell begins when she and husband Laurence invite round new neighbours, Tony and Ange, along with nervous divorcee Sue; jittery about the bash her teenage daughter, Abigail, is throwing up the road. As that party reportedly gets out of hand, this one too descends into chaos, and comedy, as drama and tragedy combine into an iconic piece of theatre.

Amanda Abbington is best-known for playing Mary Morstan in Sherlock, Miss Mardle in Mr Selfridge and DS Jo Moffat in Cuffs. Directed by Sarah Eadsdale (Talkin' Heads).



Cat on a Hot Tin Roof), this new production of Mike Leigh's legendary play is as hilarious and horribly compelling as ever.

Fri, Apr 7, 7.30pm  
Oxford Playhouse, Oxford

## JOHN OSBOURNE: 3

**STORIES FROM RADIO 4**  
John Osborne has written and performed several spellbinding half-hour storytelling shows for Radio 4. They are funny, heart-warming and a masterclass in how to keep an audience captivated.

Sat, Apr 8, 11am & 2pm  
Oxford Playhouse, Oxford

## THREE

Watch as these flamboyant players burst from their wagon of forgotten fables to re-tell such stories as Rumpelstiltskin, Goldilocks and Grimm's Three Wanderers. These classic stories are brought to life with a flurry of original sing-a-long songs, live music and inventive storytelling.

Sat, Apr 8, 7pm  
New Theatre, Oxford

## CARO EMERALD

Since the release of her 2010 multi-platinum debut album 'Deleted Scenes From The Cutting Room Floor' Caro Emerald has fashioned her own niche. Gorgeous and stylish, Caro blends retro jazz



Tue, Apr 18 – Sat, Apr 22  
Oxford Playhouse, Oxford

## PYGMALION

with sampling and modern pop to create her signature sound.

Fri, Apr 14, 8pm  
The Beacon, Wantage,  
THE ZOOTS

Experience THE Sixties show that's wowing audiences around the world, and headlining venues from the Palladium to Old Trafford - with the spectacular sounds of The Zoots

Tue, Apr 18, 7pm  
New Theatre, Oxford

## BILLY OCEAN

Currently on an international tour, Billy Ocean will be appearing in Oxford in April 2017 where he will be performing all of his greatest hits from the new album and favourite tracks.

Tue Apr 18 – Sat, Apr 22  
Oxford Playhouse, Oxford

## PYGMALION

Over one hundred years after it was written, this radical new production explores one of the most celebrated comedies of the 20th

century, Bernard Shaw's Pygmalion.

Wed, Apr 19, 7pm  
O2 Academy, Oxford

## JOSH DOYLE

After making the move to Nashville, alt-rock singer songwriter Josh Doyle, formerly of the British band Dum Dums, is back for a UK tour.

Fri, Apr 21, 6.30pm  
O2 Academy, Oxford

## BETTER THAN NEVER & COAST TO COAST

Birmingham pop punk band, Coast to Coast announce their new EP, The Length Of A Smile, as they come to O2 Academy Oxford. With support from Better Than Nothing and One State Drive.

Fri, Apr 21 – Sat, Apr 22  
New Theatre, Oxford

## THE FIRST HIPPO ON THE MOON

From Number One bestselling children's author David Walliams comes an explosively funny space

adventure for children of 3 and up. Two big hippos. One enormous dream. Who can make it to the moon first?

Tue, Apr 25, 7.30pm  
New Theatre, Oxford

## YAMATO DRUMMERS

Following their hugely successful tour in 2015, the Yamato Drummers are back in the UK by popular demand. Their acclaimed performances of Japanese Taiko drumming and music have captivated

audiences of over 6 million people in 53 countries across the globe.

Fri, Apr 28, 7pm  
O2 Academy, Oxford

## TINARIWEN

Grammy Award-winning Tinariwen will be returning to O2 Academy Oxford in spring. The Malian guitar heroes, influenced by American blues and the likes of Jimi Hendrix, were discovered in the 90's. They travelled the world with their songs - charged with poetry and aching beauty.



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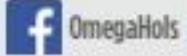
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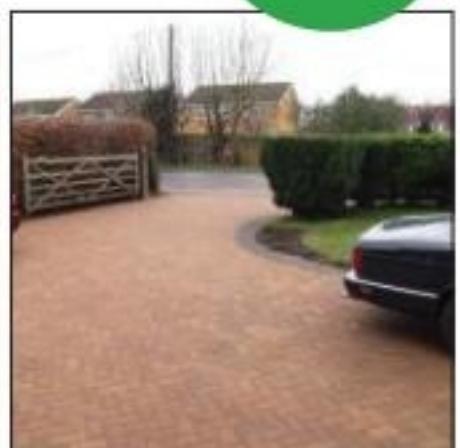
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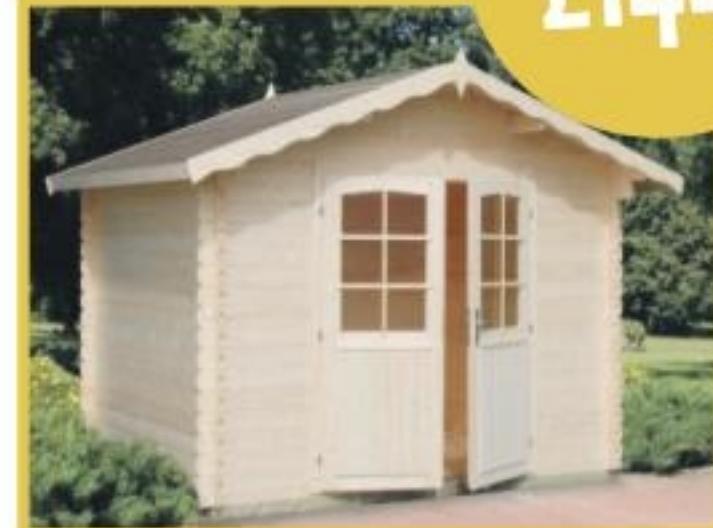


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Kia Optima Sportswagon 1.7 CRDi 3 ISG

## A sportswagon with real swagger

By Tony Yates

If you are looking for a decent estate car that has everything thrown in for a decent price – then look no further than the Optima Sportswagon.

What Kia have done here is made the perfect estate car that has a minimum of 552 litres of cargo space – plus the added option of dropping the rear seats to increase this to 1,686 litres. This also gives Kia the perfect opportunity to break into that important D-segment where they hope the Optima Sportswagon will grab a slice of the business and fleet sales market.

### Power and Efficiency

The version I currently have on test is powered by a 1.7 litre turbocharged diesel engine with 139bhp and 340 lb/ft of torque which makes the Optima move along at a decent pace considering its size. Fuel economy figures are also good and you can expect to achieve around 60.0mpg (combined) plus a decent top speed of 124mph.

### On the road

The Optima feels pretty good on our roads – and there are no dramas to talk about here because its well balanced and settled even on some of our most demanding roads – you'll have less to worry about if you decide to start planting the Optima into the corners.

I know I have said this before – but the Kia engineers really do put a lot of effort into making their cars handle well and you can feel that in the way the Optima tells you exactly what's going on beneath you – while Kia's onboard safety features do their job by keeping everything present and correct even in the event that you do go and get it all a bit wrong.

### Safety and Technology

Trim levels inside the Optima don't feel as good as they do inside the Sportage – but this is a load lugger and a car that is able to accommodate a large family and pretty much everything you can throw at it – so when you think about

it, the interior is actually well thought out with modern hard wearing materials that will be very good at resisting wear for many years.

With technology now being one of the most important factors most people look for when buying a new car – the Optima needed to offer a lot toys for not much money. Well, I can happily report that the Optima does not fall short here – and comes with a whole array of features such as front & rear parking sensors, auto-dimming rear-view mirror, 8" Touchscreen Satellite Navigation, dual automatic air conditioning with an automatic windscreen de-fog system, 18" alloy wheels, LED front fog, Led rear lights, Blind Spot Detection, ABD with EBD, Lane-Keep Assist and speed limit information, Rear Cross Traffic Alert and twin side (front) curtain airbags among many others.

### To sum up

Go out and see for yourself what the Optima Sportswagon has to offer. Standard price (from) £24,495 as tested.



• Kia Optima Sportswagon 1.7 CRDi 3 ISG

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16/66	Mazda CX-5 5dr 2.2D SE-L Nav 2WD, Sonic Silver with delivery mileage	£20,187
16/66	Mazda CX-5 5dr 2.2D SE-L Nav AWD, Soul Red Metallic with delivery mileage	£21,287
16/66	Mazda CX-5 5dr 2.2D Sport Nav 2WD, Sonic Silver with delivery mileage	£23,477
16/66	Mazda CX-5 5dr 2.2D Sport Nav 2WD, Jet Black Mica with delivery mileage	£24,667

### Hyundai

Reg	Model	Price
16/16	Hyundai i10 1.0 SE, Polar White with 276 miles	£7,890
15/65	Hyundai i20 1.4 SE 5dr, Sleek Silver with 6,601 miles	£8,850
16/16	Hyundai i20 1.2 SE, Sleek Silver with 12,584 miles	£8,950
15/15	Hyundai i20 Coupe Sport 1.4 CRDi, Stardust Grey with 19,936 miles	£9,450
15/65	Hyundai i20 1.4 Premium SE 5dr, Sleek Silver with 6,441 miles	£9,850
15/15	Hyundai i30 1.4 SE 5dr, Sleek Silver with 7,737 miles	£9,950
15/15	Hyundai i30 1.6 CRDi 5dr, Polar White with 12,347 miles	£10,450
14/64	Hyundai ix35 1.6 GDi SE, Sleek Silver with 10,779 miles	£11,850
13/13	Hyundai ix35 1.7 CRDi Premium, Phantom Black with 19,855 miles	£12,250
15/15	Hyundai ix35 1.6 GDi SE, Phantom Black with 8,129 miles	£12,850
15/15	Hyundai ix35 1.7 CRDi SE, Steel Grey with 18,947 miles	£13,450
16/16	Hyundai i30 1.6 CRDi SE Nav 5dr, Polar White with 4,805 miles	£13,450
14/64	Hyundai ix35 1.7 CRDi Premium, Creamy White with 16,318 miles	£15,850
15/15	Hyundai i40 1.7 CRDi SE Nav Tourer 141PS, Phantom Black with 23,304 miles	£15,850
16/66	Hyundai i30 1.6 CRDi SE 5dr, Polar White with 10 miles	£13,950
16/16	Hyundai Tucson SE 1.6 GDi SE, Polar White with 7,911 miles	£15,950
15/65	Hyundai Tucson 1.6 GDi SE, White Sand with 12,520 miles	£15,950
16/66	Hyundai Tucson 1.7 SE Nav CRDi, Platinum Silver with 10 miles	£18,900
16/66	Hyundai Tucson 2.0 Premium Auto 4WD, Thunder Grey with 5,455 miles	£23,450
15/15	Hyundai Santa Fe Premium 7 Seat, Ocean View with 11,692 miles	£23,850
16/66	Hyundai Tucson 2.0 Premium 4WD, Phantom Black with 2,844 miles	£24,450
15/15	Hyundai Santa Fe Premium SE Auto 7 Seat, Titanium Silver with 8,006 miles	£28,450

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0% Finance: Finance subject to status. Maximum balance to finance £5,400, 50% deposit required. Retail sales only. Terms and conditions apply. Applicants must be 18 & over. Guarantee/Indemnity may be required. You will not own the vehicle until all the payments are made. £1500 Minimum Part Exchange: The part exchange vehicle must have been owned by the current owner for a minimum of 6 months prior to part exchange. The vehicle must be roadworthy, taxed and have at least 3 months MOT at time of exchange. The replacement vehicle must be registered to the same name and address as detailed on the V5c document. This offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer or saving.



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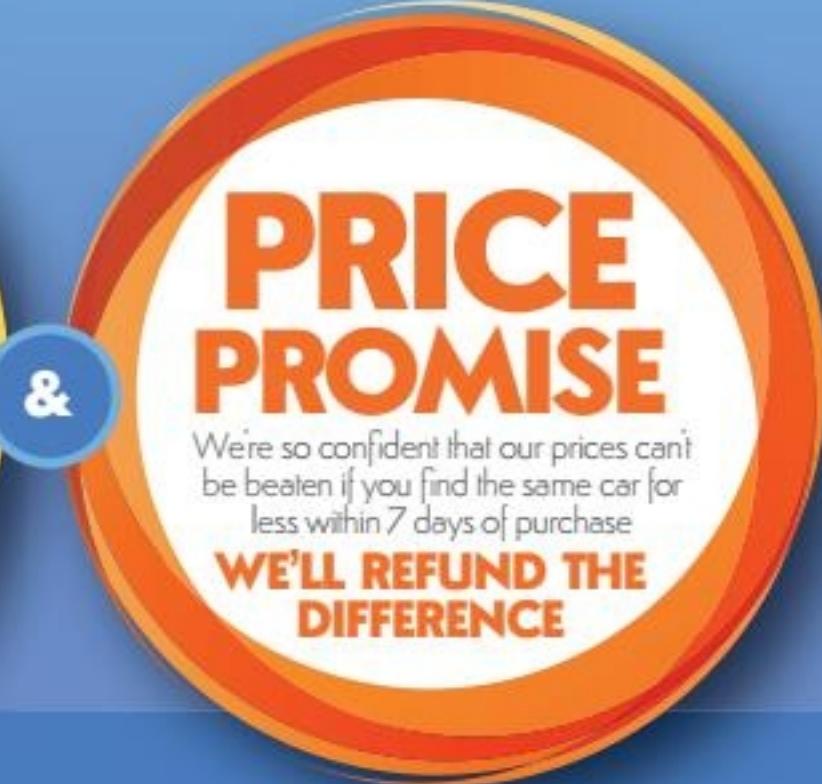
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Official fuel consumption for the new V90 D4 Momentum, in MPG (l/100km): Urban 54.3 (5.2), Extra Urban 68.9 (4.1), Combined 62.8 (4.5), CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions 119g/km. MPG figures are obtained from laboratory testing intended for comparisons between vehicles and may not reflect real driving results.

\*Important Information: Johnsons of Oxford is a trading style of Johnsons Cars Ltd who is acting as an introducer. Contract hire provided by Lex Autolease Ltd, trading as Volvo Car Leasing, SK3 0RB. 18s and over, subject to status. You will not own the vehicle and it must be returned in good condition to avoid further charges. Excess mileage charges 18.54p per mile. Subject to availability at participating dealers for vehicles registered 01/01/17 to 31/03/17. Not available with other promotions. Johnsons Cars Ltd (Firm Reference Number: 512460) are an Appointed Representative of ITC Compliance Ltd, and are authorised & regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (their registration number is 313486) and are permitted to advise on and arrange General Insurance contracts. Registered Name: Johnsons Cars Ltd, Registered Office: Johnsons Cars Ltd, Empire Court, Albert Street, Redditch, Worcestershire B97 4DA. Registration No. 3716766. VAT Registration No. GB927551606.

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- GALAXY BLACK
- E ROAD TAX
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2013 VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.4 98PS EXCLUSIV 5DR

- GUNMETAL GREY
- CRUISE CONTROL
- ELECTRIC FRONT WINDOWS
- 5 STAR SAFETY RATING
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2013 PEUGEOT 208 1.4 HDI 70PS ACCESS PLUS 5DR

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- CRUISE CONTROL
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2015 FIAT 500 1.2i CULT 3DR

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- AIR CONDITIONING

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2013 FORD B-MAX 1.5 TDCI 75PS ZETEC 5DR

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2014 FORD FOCUS 1.0T ECOBOOST 100PS ZETEC NAVIGATOR 5DR

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- CHILLOUT PURPLE
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2016 FORD FIESTA 1.0T ECOBOOST ZETEC 5DR

- PANTHER BLACK
- HEATED WINDSCREEN
- AIR CONDITIONING
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- ELECTRIC FRONT & REAR WINDOWS

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2016 FIAT TIPO 1.6I MULTIJET EASY PLUS 5DR

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Bluetooth & DAB Radio

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£179 + £179  
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Mokka X 1.6i Active on the road price £20,096 - Customer Deposit £999 - Part exchange allowance £4,000 - Total amount of credit £15,097 - 48 monthly payments of £199 - Optional final payment £5,673 - Representative APR 0% on Personal Contract Plan - Total amount payable £20,066 based on 24,000 miles contract duration (other mileages available). Astra 14 Sri on the road price £18,725 - Customer Deposit £999 - Part exchange allowance £3,000 - Total amount of credit £14,726 - 48 monthly payments of £179 - Optional final payment £6,274 - Representative APR 0% on Personal Contract Plan - Total amount payable £18,725 based on 24,000 miles contract duration (other mileages available). Corsa 14 Energy on the road price £12,832 - Customer Deposit £499 - Part exchange allowance £3,500 - Total amount of credit £8,833 - 48 monthly payments of £139 - Optional final payment £3,505 - Representative APR of 4.9% on Personal Contract Plan - Total amount payable £14,037 based on 24,000 miles contract duration (other mileages available). Adam 12 Jam on the road price £12,720 - Customer Deposit £499 - Part exchange allowance £2,500 - Total amount of credit £9,721 - 48 monthly payments of £155 - Optional final payment £3,379 - Representative APR 3.7% on Personal Contract Plan - Total amount payable £13,683 based on 24,000 miles contract duration (other mileages available). Minimum part exchange is regardless of age, condition or mileage however, it must be drivable and in your ownership for at least 6 months - This offer is available against all New Vauxhall Cars held within Eden stock but must be delivered by the Friday the 28th of April. The minimum part exchange is as part of a Vauxhall finance agreement and supersedes any other offers that may coincide. Finance subject to status. Terms & Conditions apply. 18's and over. Guarantee may be required - Black Horse Finance St William House Tredegar Terrace Cardiff CF10 5BH.



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MG GS EXCLUSIVE 1.5 DCT -  
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12 12 FORD FIESTA 1.4 ZETEC TDCI 5DR, blue, 1 owner, fsh, 19k	£7,495
14 64 VAUXHALL CORSA 1.3 CDTI SXI ECOFLEX, met grey, fsh, 18k	£6,995
14 64 CITROEN C3 1.4 HDI VTR PLUS 5 DOOR, red, fsh, 21k	£6,995
16 16 MG3 STYLE 1.5 VTI-TECH 5DR, met silver, 1 owner, FSH, 8k	£6,995
11 11 MAZDA 2 TS2 AUTO, met silver, fsh, 48k	£5,995
11 11 FORD FIESTA 1.4 TDCI ZETEC 5DR, met black, sh, 60k	£5,995
13 63 CITROEN C1 1.0 VTR 5 DOOR, white, fsh, 18k	£5,695
12 62 NISSAN NOTE 1.5 ACENTA DCI 5DR, red, 1 owner, FSH, 73k	£5,695
14 14 CITROEN C1 1.0 EDITION 5 DOOR, red, fsh, 32k	£5,695

### 10 59 FIAT 500 1.2 LOUNGE 3 DR, white, fsh, 56k

£4,995

### 10 10 Chevrolet Aveo 1.2 S 5DR, met blue, SH,

£2,995

### 08 08 FORD KA 1.3 STYLE CLIMATE 3DR, 1 owner, fsh,

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### Estate

### 12 12 MERCEDES C200 CDI BLUEEFFICIENCY SE, met grey leather, fsh, 38k

£12,995

### 13 13 VAUXHALL INSIGNIA 2.0 CDTI TOURER TECHLINE, met blue, fsh, 66k

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### 08 58 VOLVO V70 2.4 SE D LUX NAV 5DR, met black with full cream leather, 1 owner, FSH, 51k

£8,695

### 13 62 VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 SRI, white, fsh, 38k

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### 13 13 CHEVROLET CRUZE 1.6 LT 5DR, met black, FSH, 56k

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### 7 Seater / MPV

### 13 62 MAZDA CX-5 D 2.2 SPORT MANUAL 5DR, white with black leather, fsh, 73k

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### 12 62 FORD GALAXY 2.0 ZETEC TDCI 7 SEATER, met silver, fsh,

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### 11 11 NISSAN QASHQAI 1.5 N-TEC DCI, met red, fsh, 39k

£9,495

### 4x4

### 12 12 MAZDA CX-5 2.2D SPORT NAV 5DR, met blue with full black leather, FSH, 95k

£10,995

### 08 08 HYUNDAI SANTA FE 2.2 CDX CRTD AUTO 5DR, met grey with full black leather, FSH, 75k

£5,995

### 08 58 FORD KUGA 2.0 TDCI ZETEC 5DR, met silver, sh, 51k

£8,295

### Others

### 13 13 AUDI A5 3.0 TDI QUATTRO S-LINE AUTO 3DR, met blue with full 2 tone leather, 1 owner, FSH, 55k

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### 16 66 MG GS 1.5T EXCLUSIVE AUTO PETROL, white with full black leather, 2300 miles, ex demo

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### 12 62 AUDI A4 SE 2.0 TDI SALOON, black, fsh, 50k

£12,495

### 10 60 MINI COUNTRYMAN 1.6 COOPER D 5DR, red, 1 owner, FSH, 29k

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### 14 14 FORD MONDEO 1.6 TDCI BUSINESS EDITION 5 DOOR, met blue, fsh, 79k

£7,995

### 12 62 KIA CEED 1.4 CRDI 5 DOOR, white, fsh, 91k

£6,295

### 10 59 AUDI A3 2.0 SPORTBACK TDI SPORT 5DR, met blue, fsh, 138k

£5,995

### 09 09 FORD MONDEO 1.8 EDGE TDCI DIESEL 5DR, blue, sh, 75k

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**THE LAW HAS CHANGED ...  
DO YOU HAVE THE CORRECT GAS?**

**We can now offer  
R1234YF car air-con  
recharge and service**



**Is your car 2013 or newer? If so, you will need the correct gas.**

As of the 7th September 2016 we are able to offer R1234yf refrigerant re-gassing, or a car air-con recharge as sometimes known at our Wheatley Car Centre Branch.

This gas is compulsory for new cars from 2013 all be it has been around since 2010, although some manufacturers are still refusing to use this, notably Mercedes who are not happy with the flammable nature of the gas, which in turn means not many companies offer the re-gassing service for cars using r1234yf. But due to the amount of cars we sell we have needed to be able have this service onsite so we can now offer this service to our customers.

A common question is why the old, r134a gas found in most cars today, is being replaced?

It's driven by environmental concerns as the new gas is more environmentally friendly.

**So, for ALL your re-gas and service needs please contact our Wheatley Car Centre Service  
Department, tel. 01865 874046 opt 2 • [www.wheatleycarcentre.co.uk](http://www.wheatleycarcentre.co.uk)**

# SELL Your Car

ONLY £15  
FOR 4 WEEKS

## Renault Laguna 1.8 Sports Tourer Estate



Year: 2002  
Miles: 18,500  
MOT: June 2017  
Colour: Almond Green  
Price: £3500

1 Automatic, one owner and service history Excellent Condition please call 01280 703968

23.03.17

## Mazda MX-5 1.8



Year: 2004  
Miles: 66,300  
Colour: Silver  
MOT: August 2017  
Price: £2,595 ono

One lady owner with FSH (12 stamps in the service book) lots of receipts. Silver with black hood. PAS, EW, EM, Airbags, original R/C player, 5 spd. Recent work includes two new tyres, full vehicle inspection and a front/rear engine flush. Cam-belt changed in Aug 2015. Body and hood in good condition. Tonneau cover and full outdoor MX 5 cover included. Two keys, V5 present. Tel. 01296 698535 or 07788 211644

## Kia Rio Automatic



Year: 2003  
Miles: 66,000  
MOT: June 2018  
Colour: Met Red  
Price: £595

Kia Rio 1.3 Ix 5 Door Hatch, PAS, EW, CL, CD Player, service history, very clean for year. 07833 160856

SB38027 / 30.3.17

## Chevrolet Aveo



Year: 2009  
Miles: 60,200  
MOT: Mar 2018  
Colour: Dark Blue  
Price: £1,395 ono

Chevrolet Aveo 1.4 Petrol 5 Door Hatchback Metallic Blue. Remote central locking with alarm, Air Con, Alloys, CD/Radio player, 4 electric windows, electric mirrors, 5 Speed, PAS, front fog lights. Drives well. Please call 01235 516902

30.3.17

## Vauxhall Zafira 1.7 TD ecoFLEX 16v Exclusiv



Year: 2012  
Miles: 72,800  
Colour: Silver  
MOT: May 2017  
Price: £4,695 ono

7 SEATER ESTATE, 5 dr. Only One Owner with Service History (3 stamps) and service print out. Air con, ABS, Cruise, Traction control, Remote/Alarm, airbags, electric front windows & mirrors. Lovely condition inside and out drives really well.

## Vauxhall Insignia 2.0 CDTi ecoFlex Exclusive



Year: 2012  
Miles: 49,500  
MOT: Aug 2017  
Colour: Met Black  
Price: £5,695 ono

5 Dr Hatchback, one previous owner, only 49,500 miles with service history. Air con, PAS, Cruise control, Traction Control, Remote/Alarm, Airbags, Front electric mirrors and windows, Rear parking sensors, Lovely looking car and

Your advert will appear in all 7 editions of the **Oxfordshire Guardian**. It will also appear in the **Basingstoke Observer** and the **Newbury Observer** and **Online** for 4 weeks.

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## LODGE HILL GARAGE ABINGDON



01865 326666  
[cars@lodgehillgarage.com](mailto:cars@lodgehillgarage.com)  
[www.lodgehillgarage.co.uk](http://www.lodgehillgarage.co.uk)



Lodge Hill Garage, Oxford Road, Abingdon, Oxfordshire OX14 2JD. Opening times: Mon-Fri 8.30-5.30, Sat 9-5, Sun 10-4.

We now do  
mechanical work  
onsite.

We service and  
repair ALL makes  
of cars.

Onsite 4x4  
specialist team too.

**MOT –  
now with  
fluid check  
JUST £50**

**REPAIR, SERVICING,  
DIAGNOSTICS &  
AIR CONDITIONING  
COURTESY CAR  
COLLECTION &  
DELIVERY**

**Unexpected  
car repair?**

We now have a  
solution to spread  
the cost of car  
repairs over 4 easy  
payments **INTEREST  
FREE!!**

**LOYALTY  
DISCOUNT TO  
EXISTING  
CUSTOMERS**

**Abingdon's best  
value for money  
service centre**

**ABINGDON'S MOST CONVENIENT SERVICE CENTRE LOCATED JUST OFF THE A34**

# AutoWeekly

To advertise in the Motor Services section, call 01235 511700

or email [autoweekly@oxfordshireguardian.co.uk](mailto:autoweekly@oxfordshireguardian.co.uk)

## Motor Services

### Phillips Tyres Ltd

Oxfords No.1 Tyres Supplier



01865 775522 (Cowley)

01865 511038 (Northern Bypass)

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205 55 16VR £39.95 • 225 45 17XL £49.95

225 40 18XL £49.95

All prices include new valve and balancing.

More great offers available

CALL NOW, OPEN 7 DAYS



### Mac's Garage (Witney) Ltd

We service and repair all makes of vehicle

- MOT testing by appointment
- MOT testing for cars and light commercials while you wait
- Vehicle diagnostics for most manufacturers
- If your air conditioning is not working, allow us to get you nice and cool again with our air-conditioning service by our trained technicians
- Tyre fitting service available

Over  
100 years  
of combined experience  
in all aspects of vehicle  
repairs & servicing

**Vehicle remapping (agents for Pendle Performance)**

**New Van and Pick up service centre**

**Opening Hours Monday to Friday 8.30 - 5.30**

**Saturday 8.30 - 12.30**

**Burford Road, Witney, Oxon, OX29 0RB**

**macs.garage@utsl.com**

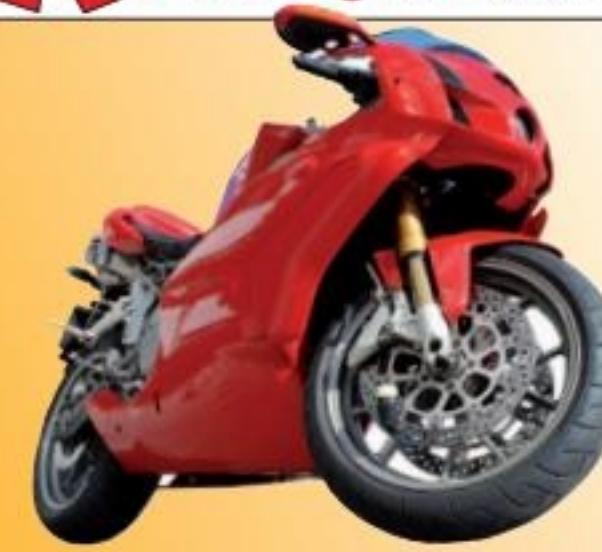
**www.macsgarage.co.uk**

**01993 772136**



### Ride in Bike Tyres...

81 Russell St  
Reading  
Berks RG1 7XG



**The ride in ride out  
tyre fitting service**

**01189 500 300**



INDEPENDENT GARAGE SERVICES AT:  
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BUSHEY GROUND, MINSTER LOVELL,  
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**Witney 01993 703621**

**[enquiries@jsmotorsoxford.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@jsmotorsoxford.co.uk)**

**[www.jsmotors.co.uk](http://www.jsmotors.co.uk)**



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## G & H

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**Motor cycle repairs and servicing to most  
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helpful and very experienced.**

**Phone: 01865 862888 • mobile: 07711 190911  
[www.gavinsbikehospital.co.uk](http://www.gavinsbikehospital.co.uk)**

## Didcot Car Services

- SERVICING
- TYRES
- CAR SALES
- CAR VALETING

Service Menu	Bronze	Bronze+	Gold	Platinum	Specialist Services
Small Car	£5	£7	£15	£40	Cabriolet fabric hood treatment £15
Medium Car	£7	£9	£20	£45	Upholstery/ seats/ carpet shampoo £5 per seat
Large/ Luxury/ 4x4 Car	£9	£11	£25	£50	Leather seat treatment £5 per seat
Hand Shampoo & Hand dried	✓	✓	✓	✓	High Definition Wax £25 - £30
External Glass Polished	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Tyre Dressed	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Exterior Body Treatment With Express Polish		✓	✓	✓	
Upholstery Vacuumed			✓	✓	
Carpets Vacuumed			✓	✓	
Boot/Luggage area Vacuumed			✓	✓	
Rubber Floor mats washed			✓	✓	
Internal glass polished			✓	✓	
Dashboard cleaned and air freshener applied			✓	✓	
Full body waxed by hand with Radical Wax				✓	
Exterior bumper & plastic conditioned				✓	
Fine detailing to interior & exterior - Air freshener fitted				✓	

**Tel. 01235 512200 • Mob. 07974 190 447**

RICH'S SIDINGS, BROADWAY, DIDCOT

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**01235 511700**

# AutoWeekly

To advertise in the Motor Services section, call **01235 511700**

or email [autoweekly@oxfordshireguardian.co.uk](mailto:autoweekly@oxfordshireguardian.co.uk)

## BROOKO'S

### Tyre & Exhaust Centre

Unit 14 Curtis Yard, Botley Works, Oxford OX2 0LX

*Tyres and exhausts fitted at competitive prices*

*Friendly no nonsense service  
Years of experience*

#### Opening Hours:

Mon - Fri 08.00 - 17.30, Sat 08.30 - 12.30

**Tel: 01865 248882**

**AT Autos Ltd**  
[www.atautos.co.uk](http://www.atautos.co.uk)



- MOT - cars & light commercials
- Full vehicle diagnostics
- All makes servicing
- Air con service & re-gas
- Courtesy cars available

**Tel: 01993 771952**

Unit G, Swain Court, Avenue 2, Station Lane, Witney OX28 4YB

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Annoying car park dings or dents?



These can be repaired  
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for a free estimate

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[premierdentsoxford@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:premierdentsoxford@yahoo.co.uk)



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## Motor Services

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**CALOR** Gas AutoGas LPG fuel  
Call us now on **01235 814186**  
[www.didcotcalor.co.uk](http://www.didcotcalor.co.uk)



### Vale Garage

Vale Garage Service Centre offers MOT testing, repairs, servicing and diagnostics. We do anything from tyres to brakes, batteries and exhausts.

Vale Garage car and van sales is an independent retailer supplying low mileage used cars and vans in the local area of Oxfordshire, Wiltshire, Gloucestershire and Berkshire.

For vehicles outside the manufacturers warranty we offer a full comprehensive warranty. All vehicles are serviced up to date when sold.

**Service telephone: 01367 710 777**  
**Sales telephone: 01367 710 100**

Forecourt Location: Vale Garage, Faringdon Road, Stanford in the Vale, nr Faringdon, Oxfordshire SN7 8HN  
Email: [valegarage@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:valegarage@hotmail.co.uk)  
[www.valegarage.com](http://www.valegarage.com)

### LODGE HILL GARAGE

ABINGDON

**T: 01865 32 66 66**

**W: [www.lodgehillgarage.co.uk](http://www.lodgehillgarage.co.uk) E: [cars@lodgehillgarage.com](mailto:cars@lodgehillgarage.com)**



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- Instant payment - no fees no fuss

**Contact Anton or Nigel  
for an immediate decision**

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**01235 511700**

# AutoWeekly

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LPG CONVERSIONS &  
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The Good Garage Scheme



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TIDDINGTON GARAGE OXFORD ROAD,  
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MOB 07973 442617

INFO@OXFORDAUTOGAS.COM  
WWW.OXFORDAUTOGAS.COM

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- Wheel balancing
- Laser alignment & geometry



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**01844 278843**

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### Martin Gilbert

Motor Repairs Ltd

### Abingdon's no hassle MOT Centre

#### April Offer:

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**Tel: 01235 553055**

Radley Rd Industrial Estate,  
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[www.martingilbertmotorrepairs.com](http://www.martingilbertmotorrepairs.com)

### M.O.T. TESTING CENTRE

M.O.T. TESTING  
REPAIRS & SERVICING

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HEADINGTON,  
OXFORD

**01865 762892**



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- FINANCE SETTLED - HASSLE FREE
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- FROM £50 - £20,000
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**PLEASE CALL 01235 810091**

E.MAIL: [sales@haddenhillcars.co.uk](mailto:sales@haddenhillcars.co.uk)

HADDEN HILL GARAGE DIDCOT OX11 9BJ

### T J Hall & Son Ltd

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- All makes Car Repairs
- Tyres supplied and fitted
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- Diagnostic Fault Finding
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[www.tjhallandson.co.uk](http://www.tjhallandson.co.uk)

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**VOLVO** specialists in Witney  
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Witney

Sales Service Repair MoT



**01993 700545**

[www.da-autos.co.uk](http://www.da-autos.co.uk)



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■ Wheel Alignment	■ Local Delivery & Collection Service
■ Tyres	■ Jaguar Key Repairs
■ Braking Systems	

Email: [josh@jsmotorworks.co.uk](mailto:josh@jsmotorworks.co.uk)

Phone: 01491 410616 or 07580 420887

Address: 1 Partridge House, Newtown Road,  
Henley on Thames RG9 1HG



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**ONLY £25.00ph labour rates**

Local mechanic with 15 years in the trade. Work on all makes and types of vehicles. From brakes and servicing to engine rebuilds. Latest diagnostic equipment. Offering main dealer service at a fraction of the price.

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Call today for a free quote  
Or email: [Aaron001.a@googlemail.com](mailto:Aaron001.a@googlemail.com)

# Guardian Recruitment

To place a recruitment advert contact **Tara**  
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## BUILDING STONE LTD

Part of the Johnston Quarry Group in North Oxford

### **TWO BANKER MASONS**

**REQUIRED FOR IMMEDIATE START**

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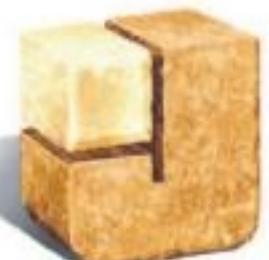
### **5 AXIS MILL/CNC OPERATOR**

### **5 AXIS MILL/CNC OPERATOR**

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WOULD SUIT MASON OR SECOND YEAR TRAINEE  
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or [maurice@buildingstone.co.uk](mailto:maurice@buildingstone.co.uk)



**JOHNSTON  
QUARRY GROUP**

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## WANTED

### Part time multi-drop driver

One day a week - every Thursday and with own van for Witney & Banbury area.

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Own Car essential.

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Hourly rate from £7.84 to £10.15  
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Call **01865 744174** or email  
[info.ox@1st-homecare.com](mailto:info.ox@1st-homecare.com)  
[www.1st-homecare.com](http://www.1st-homecare.com)



**1st Homecare**

## REPORTER WANTED

We are looking for a talented, enthusiastic reporter for our Basingstoke Observer newspaper.

The ideal candidate should have the NCTJ or equivalent qualification and some experience as a reporter would be preferable.

You should be a motivated, self-starter and be keen to take on the responsibility of working on a busy title covering this lively news patch. The role covers news and sport for both the newspaper and online.

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Please apply with your CV to the editor Karen Neville at [karen@taylornewspapers.co.uk](mailto:karen@taylornewspapers.co.uk)

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# Guardian Classifieds

## Public Notice

### Department for Transport

#### TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990

The Secretary of State gives notice of an Order made under Section 247 of the above Act entitled "The Stopping up of Highway (South East) (No.19) Order 2017" authorising the stopping up of an irregular shaped area of highway, comprising the current access and parking for Evenlode Tower, at Oxford in the City of Oxford. This is to enable development as permitted by Oxford City Council, reference 14/02640/CT3.

Copies of the Order may be obtained, free of charge, from the Secretary of State, National Transport Casework Team, Tyneside House, Skinnerburn Road, Newcastle Business Park, Newcastle upon Tyne NE4 7AR or nationalcasework@dtf.gsi.gov.uk (quoting NATTRAN/SE/S247/2688) and may be inspected during normal opening hours at Blackbird Leys Community Centre, Blackbird Leys Road, Oxford OX4 6HW.

Any person aggrieved by or desiring to question the validity of or any provision within the Order, on the grounds that it is not within the powers of the above Act or that any requirement or regulation made has not been complied with, may, within 6 weeks of 06 April 2017 apply to the High Court for the suspension or quashing of the Order or of any provision included.

S Zamenzadeh, Casework Manager

TY buddies all with to choose from £3 their tags find in pris- each. Evenings 01865 751012 fine condition loads 820181

## Property Management

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With TPPM we can offer:

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To find out more:

01296 320 196



## Holidays



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Cottages to sleep from 2 to 8 persons with stunning views. If you have a cottage in this area and are thinking of holiday letting, please do get in touch. Alternatively if you have or are thinking of buying a second home in south east Cornwall but do not wish to rent it out and are worried because you are so far away, we will step in to help, making insurance checks or just to read the electric meter, giving you peace of mind someone is popping in to check the property.

**www.polruancottages.co.uk**  
**01726 870582**

## For Sale

**STANLEY** garden spade and fork, good condition £10 each, 01865 396535

**LADIES** blue duffle coat size 14/16 good condition £10 01993 705938

**MORRIS** marina parts wanted. headrests headlights H4 chrome wheel trim rings mud-flaps F&R original radio, etc. 07598 938918

**FREE** old copies of homes and antiques magazine also living france and lonely planet magazines 01235 817658

**MAXI** cost pearl car seat. Requires ISO fix support our broken? Fixable hardly used black £30, 01235 817658

**BIRD** cage and stand for sale good condition. All ready for use with extras £40 ono 01865 751012

**SMALL** computer desk light wood and black chair both ex cold £15 01235 511251

**LARGE** curved red leather settee VGC £200 ono 01608 645396

**ISAAC** Newton principia in two volumes £25 01189 667940

**SMALL** boat hook three prone anchor £5 01189 667940

**PINE** bookcase 47" H 34" W 10.5" D very good condition ball feet £55 01865 730020

**OLP** vintage bagatelle board with balls ear collators item in box reasonable offer 07944 106694

**QUALCAST** cultivator 18 months old very good condition only used twice £160 01235 812358

**TWO** motor cycle helmets tint visor large hardly used blue/ white £20 07944 106694

2 white candles in box 70cm long unused £12 07944 106694

**BAR** kitchen high chair stools two £20 light natural wood classical choice 4 available 07944 106694

**NEW** jeans sevenpaits 36" waist 31" inside leg £5 each 01865 751074

**SINGLE** bed with mattress £10 0750 6471563

**MAXWELL** DVD +RW discs six pack 25 discs each pack new £5 each 01865 751074

**IKEA** Poang arm chair with wooden arms and cream upholstery brand new £30 07791 658618

**FRIDGE** freezer white almost new only used few months (bought in error) size 1400 mm x 500mm £100 delivered 01865 762859

**CROSS** stitch items 6 hard back books 25 magazines, frames, kits, etc £20 the lot 0118 958481

**LADIES** clothes size 16/18 50 plus items, will split. £50 the lot 0118 9580481

**DOUBLE** bedding duvet covers sheets pillows slips 7 sets good condition £25 the lot 0118 9580481

**MENS** clothes extra large dressing gown new £4 jackets shirts jumpers 30 items £50 will split 0118 9580481

53 observer pocket size books, collectors items. £100 the lot. 0118 9580481

**RAILWAY** books and railway jigsaws all complete, from £1 each. 0118 9580481

**RAILWAY** magazines ten for £1. Five railway pictures from £10 each. Tel 0118 9580481

**SOFA'S** pair. Matching 2 seater sofa's in

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- All types of household & garden rubbish removed
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[mbeyreservices@aol.com](mailto:mbeyreservices@aol.com)

## Holidays



**Bournemouth Coach Holidays**

**01202 767 022**

### 4 Night Breaks

24th April - 28th April .....	£149	22nd May - 26th May .....	£164
1st May - 5th May .....	£156	29th May - 2nd June .....	£164
8th May - 12 May .....	£162	28th Aug - 1st Sept .....	£221
15th May - 19th May .....	£164	4th Sept - 8th Sept .....	£221

### 5 Night Breaks

4th June - 9th June .....	£212	16th July - 21st July .....	£262
11th June - 17th June .....	£218	23rd July - 28 July .....	£262
18th June - 23rd June .....	£222	30th July - 4th Aug .....	£268
25th June - 30th June .....	£242	6th Aug - 11th Aug .....	£268
2nd July - 7th July .....	£242	13th Aug - 18th Aug .....	£268
9th July - 14th July .....	£242	20th Aug - 25th Aug .....	£268

### 6 Night Breaks

29th April - 5th May .....	£222	27th May - 2nd June .....	£249
6th May - 12th May .....	£224	2nd Sept - 8th Sept .....	£325
13th May - 19th May .....	£232	9th Sept - 15th Sept .....	£316
20th May - 26th May .....	£242	16th Sept - 22nd Sept .....	£286

### Easter Break 14th - 17th April £154

**Bournemouth Air Show 1st - 4th September £172.00**

WE HAVE MANY LOCAL PICK UP POINTS & TWO HALF DAY EXCURSIONS ARE INCLUDED WITH YOUR STAY.



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- Luxury return coach from local pick up point
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Where worlds of military surplus, new kit, the outdoors and militaria come together.

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# Guardian Classifieds

## For Sale

unmarked perfect condition ex Vines cost the "Lodger" figure collection £1500 sell £300 free delivery item £5 only delivery 01865 762859 01865 340878

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**PHILLIP BALL**  
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or visit [www.phillipball.co.uk](http://www.phillipball.co.uk)

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**TREADWELL**  
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Providing high quality window and doors to suit all budgets which include uPVC, timber/hard wood, aluminium and composite doors.  
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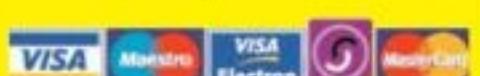
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# Grosjean has sights set on first points

## F1

RENAULT and Haas will be targeting their first points of 2017 at this weekend's Chinese Grand Prix after a disappointing start to the season for both teams.

Haas driver Romain Grosjean showed the most promising form after running seventh in the early stages before a water leak ended his race early on lap 13.

But he is confident the car has the pace to be in contention for points once again with the Banbury-based team in Shanghai.

He said: "It's always good to have a fast car, one that's maybe not 100 per cent reliable, over a slow car that is reliable.

"Of course, it's not ideal not to finish the race, but if the car is fast, we can aim for some good points and the reliability is something we know we can fix."

Enstone-based Renault will be looking for an improvement in performance from this weekend, after a steady start to the season which saw Nico Hulkenburg finish just outside the points in 11th.

Technical director Nick Chester said: "We feel we have made a good step forward since last year, and the RS17 is able to fight in the midfield.

"We need to improve the car balance and we are still learning how to get the best out of the car under the new regulations, so there is a lot of potential to come."

# Blues cause upset in cup

## Rugby League

IF anyone had tipped Oxford RL to progress into the semi finals of the League 1 Cup people would have said "April Fool!"

But April 1 was a day to remember as the Blues overcame London Skolars 24-20 at Tilsley Park.

Oxford opened the scoring when Curt Macdonald touched down in the corner.

The first half was littered with penalties, a large majority going in the visitors' favour, which gave them good territory to open their account.

They did – twice – to make the score 8-4, until Oxford's Josh Atkinson finished in the corner.

The Blues crashed over the first try after the break as Atkinson again finished well in the corner and Oxford stretched to a 14-8 lead.

But the Skolars replied with a try to level the scores again.

Oxford then re-captured the lead through Jordan Gill.

Both sides were reduced to 14 men with Oxford wing man Curt Macdonald picking up a red following a melee.

Skolars pressed hard to strike with a try and conversion to earn a two-point lead.

But the Blues pounced on a defensive slip as Atkinson was gifted his hat-trick under the posts for an easy Burnett conversion.



# Williams ready for China challenge

By Adam Flinn

## F1

AFTER a solid start to the F1 season, Williams will be looking for another big haul of points at this weekend's Chinese Grand Prix.

Felipe Massa came home sixth in

Australia in a relatively quiet drive, in which he wasn't troubled from the chasing pack but couldn't close in on those ahead of him.

His team-mate Lance Stroll had a more difficult race on his debut, with brake troubles forcing him out early.

But both are looking forward to the challenge of China, and the chance to test out the car on the long streets of

the Shanghai circuit.

Massa said: "It's always nice to go to China.

"It has a very old style, with many high speed corners and one of the longest straights in Formula One."

Stroll added: "I don't know a lot about the circuit, I have only done some simulator work on the track so I will have to wait to see what it is

like in reality.

"After Melbourne, which is a narrow track, I am going to change my approach a bit as it is a little more forgiving with the large run-off areas."

Williams are fourth in the constructors' championship with eight points at this early stage of the season after just one race.

# Men pull off master stroke

## The Boat Race

THERE was joy and disappointment at this year's boat race, with one team winning and the other finishing second.

The Oxford men were triumphant, with just a four-second difference separating them from their rivals.

The Dark Blues powered through on Sunday in a suspenseful race with a time of 16.59, making amends for last year.

Oxford prevented Cambridge from gaining an early advantage, moving out to a half a length lead by the Putney Embankment.

But then Cambridge closed the gap to around a quarter of a length.

After four minutes the steering of both coxes became extremely aggressive.

At Hammersmith Bridge Oxford moved to around a length ahead of Cambridge.

A clash of blades from the seven and two men of Oxford and Cambridge respectively briefly threw Oxford's rhythm.

However, coming under Hammersmith Oxford had moved to around a length's lead.

Cambridge refused to give up and, as a result, Oxford never moved to more than a length of clear water.

As the crews entered the final part of the race Oxford looked imperious but Cambridge never gave up and moved back to around two thirds of a length.

The boat races often bring mixed results and this year was no exception.

The sunny skies and placid water presented perfect conditions but no one could have predicted the dramatic start for the women's race.

Oxford caught a crab on the first stroke, leading to a very slow start and an advantage for Cambridge.

Cambridge increased their effort and at the mile post had a 10 second lead over Oxford.

Oxford stuck in there with Eleanor Shearer, the cox, making calls to move the boat but Cambridge proved to be too strong and every call their cox Matthew Holland made gave them a larger advantage.

Oxford pressed on but to no avail.

As Cambridge reached Hammersmith Bridge they had a 15-second lead over Oxford and it became obvious Cambridge would win.

Cambridge were the favourites going into this race and it was clear they were a very strong crew from the start.

Cambridge went on to win the race with a lead of 11 lengths and setting a course record of 18.34.

# Plato philosophical after catastrophic weekend



## Touring Cars

JASON Plato had a disastrous start to the British Touring Car Championship season after a heavy crash left him sidelined from two of the day's three races.

Starting race two in 12th place, the Oxford-based driver made a great start but almost immediately collided with Matt Simpson, turning his Subaru Levorg into the wall.

The impact caused severe damage to Plato's car, and despite a valiant effort from the Team BMR mechan-

ics to get it repaired it wasn't ready for race three.

He did manage to pick up four points in race one, making up six positions from his 18th-place start.

However, the team was off the pace all weekend, with Plato admitting that more work needs to be done.

"What a weekend that was, it's already been filed in the forget and move on folder," said Plato.

"We have lots of work to do before [the next races at] Donington, and I have every faith in my team that we can find the solutions to our problems."

# Hoops ease drop fears

## Oxford City

By George Welch

RELIEVED boss Mark Jones has praised his Oxford City side after all but ending their relegation fears with a 2-0 win at Bishops Stortford on Saturday.

A crisp first half strike from Ezra Forde and a second half Scott Davies penalty was enough for the Hoops to prevail at the expense of the division's basement team.

Jones made several changes after a run of four defeats in five league games and City, the joint-fourth lowest scorers in the National League South, looked to open the scoring early on.

Straight from kick off, Wilson Carvalho made inroads down the right wing and his cross was met by Forde whose stooping header was clawed away by an alert Richard Walton in the Bishop's Stortford goal.

The resulting corner found Forde again and his inventive flick back to debutant Guri Demuria saw the defender have a goalbound volley cleared off the line.

The frantic start was not matched by the rest of the half, but City got their noses in front a minute before half time when Ezra held his man off before placing a left footed shot beyond Walton into the bottom corner.

Oxford changed their formation to pack the midfield and made better use of the ball while nullifying any Stortford threat.

With 25 minutes remaining, the Hoops doubled their lead from the spot when man of the match Carvalho was scythed down by Evans Kouassi. Davies did the honours by blasting home via the underside of the bar.

Going two goals down did nothing



Scott Davies doubles City's lead from the spot  
Picture: Michael Allen

to enliven a deflated Bishop's Stortford side who dropped to bottom of the National League South table and look doomed to relegation.

Jones expressed his relief at picking up a much needed three points in "an important game for us".

He said: "We looked at it almost like a cup final in that we felt we needed to try and win the game.

"Obviously Bishop's Stortford have been struggling all season and their home record isn't great so it was a big

opportunity for us to win, pick up the three points, and create a little bit of breathing space.

"We approached it with that must-win mentality and we did the job.

"It's a great three points. It keeps us 11 points off of the relegation battle with five games to go so perhaps we can now relax a little bit."

City, who remain 14th in the table and 11 points clear of the trapdoor, host Hampton and Richmond Borough on Saturday.

## Kiddy left with egg on face at 'Sarnies'

### Kidlington

KIDLINGTON Town went down 3-0 away to Egham Town in their Southern League Division One Central clash on Saturday.

Visting the Sarnies's stadium for the first time, the Greens arrived hoping to make it two wins on the spin after defeating Northwood 2-1 at home the previous weekend.

Despite having 26-goal striker Anacle Odhiambo in their squad, Kidlington

barely threatened and were well beaten by the home side that needed a win to keep their play-off hopes alive.

Town started on the back foot with Egham piling on the pressure early on, resulting in two quickfire goals in the opening 20 minutes.

The hosts opened the scoring after 14 minutes through a calm finish from top scorer Brendan Matthew who steered the ball through the legs of keeper Bojan Terek after good work from Richard Pacquette with a delightful header.

Five minutes later, Egham scored their second after a six-man move forced Terek into another save from Ryan Phillips and defender Reece Yorke rose the highest to convert at the back post.

Three minutes into second half injury time Moore attacked for Egham and was brought down in the area by Jack Quainton.

Bajram Pashaj drilled the resulting penalty into the bottom right corner and ended a disappointing day for Kidlington.

## 'Pay what you want' for promotion clash

### Abingdon United

ABINGDON United are looking to bring the community together to support the club, as a new era takes shape at Northcourt Road.

The Uhlsport Hellenic League Division 1 West side will be providing their first ever 'pay what you like day' for the clash with North Leigh United on April 15.

The match is set to be pivotal, with only one more game remaining afterwards, as United search for an immediate return to the Hellenic Premier following last season's relegation.

Media officer and committee mem-

ber Harry Burton said: "Everyone at the club is excited about this opportunity to bring the town together to support the team and hopefully win over the fans of the future."

"Unfortunately, like many non-league clubs, we do struggle at times to get people through the turnstiles and so we must find innovative ideas like this to combat that."

"Fans are the heart and soul of every club, so clubs mustn't take them for granted by charging them a premium."

Abingdon are flying high in third position and have games in hand over many of their rivals, as they look to secure promotion.

Mr Burton added: "Bouncing back from relegation was always going to be a tough ask, but so far we are passing with flying colours and promotion is looking a real possibility."

"This is a testament to the coaching staff, who have built a very strong team, balanced with the right amount of youth with experienced heads."

"There is still a lot more to come from our team and it can only be strengthened with the addition of the development academy next season."

United travel to Letcombe in the final away game of the season on Saturday, which comes off the back of a 6-0 demolition of Cheltenham Saracens.



Banbury United will be looking for more celebrations as they strive to make the play-offs. Picture: E A Barson Photography

## Point to make play-offs

### Banbury United

THE Puritans' hot-pursuit of the Southern Premier League play-offs continued with a 1-0 win at relegation threatened Hayes & Yeading United on Saturday.

Banbury United made it six wins out of seven thanks to this narrow win decided by a Conor McDonagh goal just before half time.

The valuable three points, coupled with fifth-placed Merthyr Town's 2-2 draw at Kings Langley, moved Mike Ford's side to within one point of the play-off spots.

McDonagh could have grabbed his first goal of the game on 12 minutes when he connected with a Ricky Johnson knock down but blasted the ball well over the bar from 10 yards out.

Banbury had the better of the opening 45 and went close to opening the scoring midway through the first half when a Luke Carnell header smashed against the crossbar.

The Puritans got the reward their domination deserved when, seven minutes before half time, McDonagh connected with another Johnson knock down.

Unlike earlier in the half, the forward struck the ball home confidently from six yards.

United were forced to defend in the second half as their struggling hosts enjoyed much more possession.

Hayes' best spell came midway through the second half and Banbury were indebted to Jack Harding in the 67th minute when he made a great save from Mitchell Weiss in a one-on-one situation.



James Organ heads in Didcot's equaliser. Picture: Roger Neal

## Town rejoice Louis goal

### Didcot Town

A LATE Louis Joyce volley earned Didcot Town a 2-1 win at already relegated Bridgwater Town.

The hosts went very much youth first with their line-up following a heavy 7-0 defeat at promotion chasing Salisbury on Tuesday last week.

The Railwaymen should have made an ideal start after George Reid was felled in the box by debutant keeper Ashton Granter for a clear penalty.

George Jeacock stepped up but his tame kick was easily saved by the youngster diving low to his left.

But the Railwaymen didn't have things their own way and, inspired by the penalty save, the home side took a shock lead.

Syd Camper capitalised on an underhit backpass to Leigh Bedwell

in the Diddy goal and the striker made no mistake to round the keeper and slot in.

Didcot brought Ben Whitehead on in place of George Jeacock at half time and restarted on top.

They got their rewards just before the hour as James Organ headed home from a corner.

And four minutes from time a Bedwell goal kick was flicked on to Sam Barder, who played in Joyce to volley home from 12 yards out.

The replay of the Railwaymen's fixture at home to Hereford will be played behind closed doors on Tuesday, April 11.

Wantage Town will join Bridgwater in the Hellenic League as their relegation from Division 1 South & West was confirmed on Saturday after they gave a heroic display in a 3-2 defeat at runaway champions Hereford.

# 'We have to put defeat behind us and move on'

A DEJECTED Michael Appleton has said he won't be able to bring himself to re-watch the Wembley defeat.

The loss visibly hurt the U's boss more than last year's reverse to Barnsley at the same stadium 12 months ago.

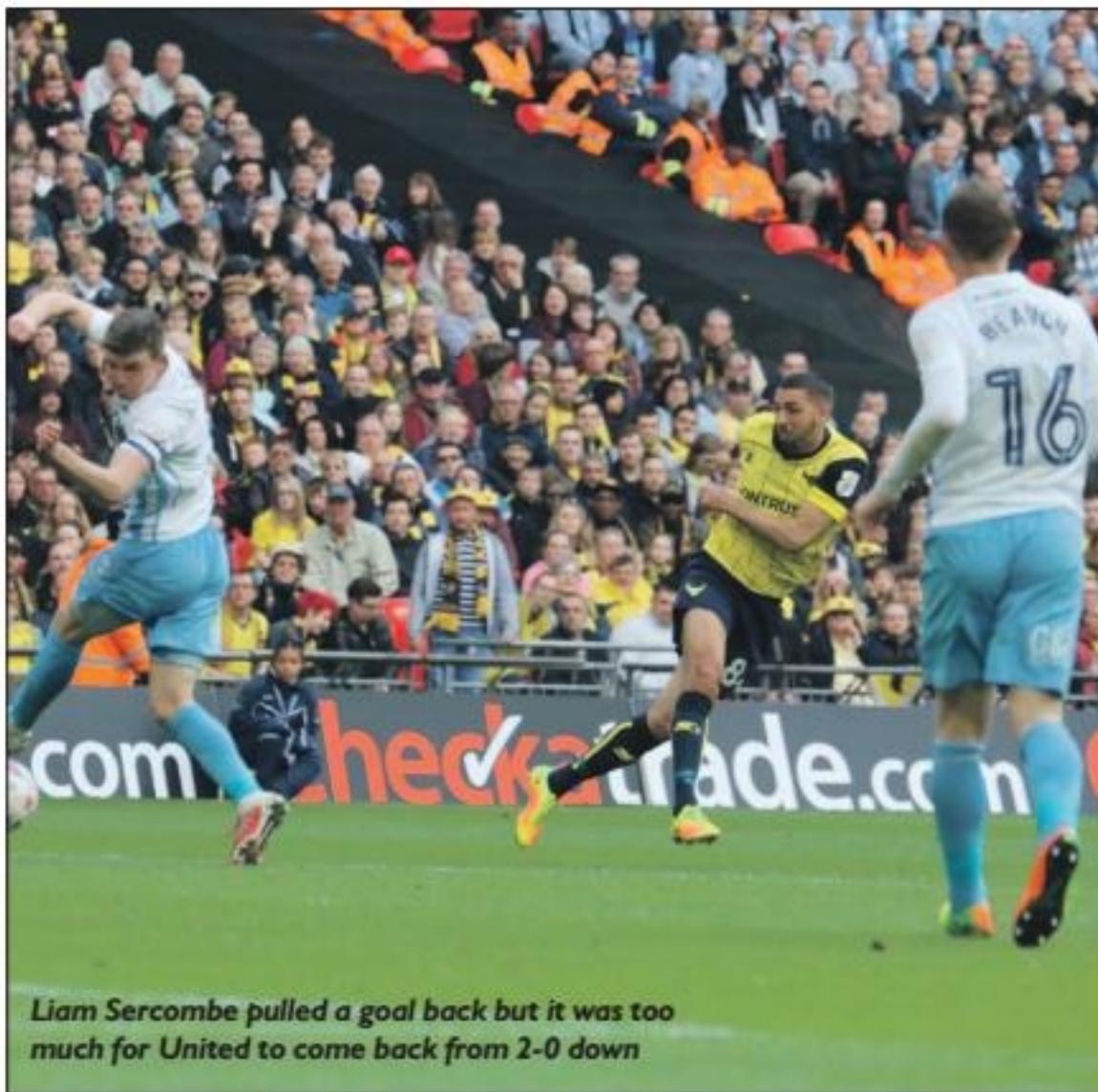
While the south Yorkshire side went on to win promotion to the Championship via the play-offs (and are enjoying mid-table safety this year) there was a sense that this year was Oxford's year.

United can't be accused of complacency against bottom club Coventry but they failed to hit the heights they so often have since the turn of the year, which has included a run of 14 wins in three months that propelled the U's up the League One table.

After the weekend, Appleton admitted: "It hurt big time. A lot of bad stuff has happened, there have been a lot of hard times including my playing career being ended.

"But Sunday was probably the worst day I've had in football. I looked back at the game in my head but I won't watch it properly - I refuse to watch it.

"It was a difficult moment. We will look back at Wembley over the summer and say 'ok what could we have done better, is there anything we could have done better or is it just one of those things'."



Liam Sercombe pulled a goal back but it was too much for United to come back from 2-0 down

He added: "It was a tough half an hour straight after the game. I was probably talking a load of rubbish because I was trying to keep it under control.

"But football as we all know moves

on quickly and luckily from our point of view we have another game on Wednesday [yesterday] so you have to put it behind you.

"They say it makes you stronger so let's wait and see."

## 'We know we've got some tough games ahead'

AHEAD of Oxford United's League One fixture away to play-off chasing Fleetwood Town last night, Michael Appleton admitted his side are shooting for a top-six finish but that they're 'not stupid'.

Before last night's challenge in the north west, the U's faced the prospect of just six games left to chase down seven points to the play-off places.

Appleton confessed that victory over Uwe Rosler's Fleetwood is imperative.

The 41-year-old said on Tuesday: "We have six games and need to win them all."

"Even if we do, there is no guarantee we would make it, but I will be absolutely amazed if we don't reach the play-offs with another 18 points."



Michael Appleton at Wembley on Sunday after the defeat

away games like Bradford and Millwall, two sides fighting like hell to make sure they stay or play in the playoffs.

"Fleetwood beat us early in the season and are a side that have been there in that top six for a long, long time.

"I'm hoping to get some kind of reaction from the players; the first 10 minutes of the game will be an indication of how the game might go. But they don't come any bigger than Wednesday."

Appleton will then take his side to mid-table Walsall on Saturday, for which the U's have sold over 1,000 tickets.

Go to [www.theoxfordshireguardian.co.uk](http://www.theoxfordshireguardian.co.uk) for a match report from last night's game with Fleetwood.

## Dismal start to season continues for United women with another loss

THE Spring Series campaign remains winless for Oxford United Women as a late winner denied them a point at league leaders Durham Women on Sunday.

Zoe Ness slotted home three minutes from time to seal a 2-1 victory after Durham were forced to come from behind after Ellie Noble's goal at the start of the second half.

Beth Hepple levelled things up shortly after, before Ness netted the winner.

Durham took the game to their visitors early on and had several half-chances with Sarah Wilson seeing a shot blocked before Nat Gutteridge poked wide from close range.

Oxford were still threatening, however, and had arguably the best chance of the first half when Emily

Donovan sprung the offside trap only to loft the ball well wide.

Neither side could find a break through in the first half, but the U's were ahead shortly after the restart as Noble took aim from distance and her shot found its way into the bottom corner.

And the lead could have been doubled moments later were it not for Rachael Laws in the Durham goal denying the lively Ini Umotong who had broken through on goal.

This let-off sparked Durham into life and they began to create chances again - Emily Roberts slotted wide before stopper Demi Lambourne did well to deny Hepple at her near post.

But Hepple wasn't to be denied again and netted the equaliser just

before the hour as she converted from close range after a defensive mix-up.

Umotong then could have handed Oxford the lead with 20 minutes remaining with only heroic defending keeping the scores level.

After the Nigerian saw her first shot saved by Laws, Becky Salicki did well to block Evie Gane's follow-up on the line before Umotong then slotted wide with the goal at her mercy.

That miss was significant as, with three minutes to go, Ness fired home the Wildcats' winner from 12 yards after a drilled cross from Roberts.

Durham saw out the final few minutes with minimal fuss to pick up another three points in the FA WSL Spring Series, leaving Oxford winless and second-bottom.

## U's let trophy slip through their feet for a second year

**Continued from back page**

was the only one alert to tip a Thomas thunderbolt over the bar on 53 minutes. But there wasn't much respite for the U's stopper, who was picking the ball out of his net two minutes later.

Winger Thomas doubled City's lead with a fine finish from 18-yards, powering a low drive into the bottom corner beyond Eastwood to give United a mountain to climb.

The Yellows were rattled and Appleton was forced to shuffle his pack by bringing on Sercombe for Ryan Ledson.

The U's turned up the pressure dial for the last 20 minutes with more possession and crosses into the box.

The pressure meant Burge had to be alert to tip a Maguire free kick over the bar. Chey Dunkley headed over from the subsequent corner.

But it was game on in the 75th minute when super sub Sercombe scored his fifth of the season by driving a half-vol-

ley through a crowd of bodies and into the net. The game exploded to life and, with the roar of the 35,000+ U's fans behind them, United should have been level just three minutes later.

The big moment came when Rothwell sent Hall through on goal as the U's broke away. But, with just the keeper to beat, the winger fired straight at Burge when he should have scored.

United huffed and puffed but the makeshift Coventry back four held firm and made life difficult for a nullified U's attack.

The most dramatic moment came right at the end when a U's corner caused panic in the six-yard box.

Sub Josh Ruffels had his header denied by Burge and a combination of the City stopper and Bigirimana prevented Edwards' follow up from trickling over the line deep into injury time.

Another game of what might have been for the U's.

SkyBet League 1		GP	GD	PTS
1	Sheffield United	40	32	82
2	Bolton Wanderers	41	29	79
3	Fleetwood Town	40	18	69
4	Bradford City	41	16	69
5	Scunthorpe United	41	19	67
6	Southend United	41	15	66
7	Millwall	41	9	66
8	Rochdale	41	7	61
9	Bristol Rovers	41	1	60
10	Oxford United	40	9	59
11	Peterborough United	41	3	58
12	MK Dons	41	2	54
13	AFC Wimbledon	41	1	54
14	Walsall	40	-3	53
15	Northampton Town	41	-6	51
16	Charlton Athletic	41	-1	47
17	Bury	41	-11	46
18	Oldham Athletic	41	-15	45
19	Gillingham	41	-18	45
20	Port Vale	40	-18	45
21	Shrewsbury Town	41	-17	43
22	Swindon Town	41	-17	42
23	Chesterfield	41	-28	34
24	Coventry City	40	-27	32



Beth Hepple scores the equaliser for Durham  
Picture: Susan Gutteridge



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United cheer with the fans ahead of kick off and inset, Chris Maguire sits dejected after the final whistle  
Pictures: Steve Daniels

By George Welch

OXFORD United suffered their second defeat at Wembley in as many years after losing 2-1 to Coventry City in the Checkatrade Trophy final in front of a massive 74,400 crowd.

After losing 3-2 to Barnsley in last year's Johnstone's Paint Trophy final, the U's endured Wembley heartbreak again, this time at the hands of League One's basement club.

The Sky Blues have had a nightmare season, but a goal either side of half time from midfielders Gail Bigirimana and

George Thomas gave them the lead they needed to see out a memorable Wembley win.

United sub Liam Sercombe threw the U's a lifeline with 15 minutes to go to set up a dramatic finale.

Oxford boss Michael Appleton cast a despondent figure after the final whistle, with his side becoming the third team to lose consecutive finals in the competition.

United saw City keeper Lee Burge pull off a double save and have the ball cleared off the line deep into injury time as Coventry won their first EFL Trophy in their first Wembley appearance for

30 years.

After a cagey first 10 minutes, a long throw bobbed about the danger zone and Bigirimana was perfectly positioned to slot Coventry into the lead. Cue pandemonium in the sky blue half of Wembley stadium.

Although United failed to get their fluid, attacking play going, Oxford responded by dominating possession and threatening with a series of corners. Curtis Nelson went closest with a 15th minute header that drifted wide.

Coventry, who came into the final

still had the better sights of goal though with both Stuart Beavon and Ben Stevenson trying their luck as the half hour approached.

Referee Chris Sarginson waved away a Kane Hemmings penalty appeal as the U's tried to crank up the pressure before skipper John Lundstram sliced over the bar on 32 minutes.

Just a few minutes later and three players in yellow tried to dance their way through to Burge's goal. Joe Rothwell, Chris Maguire and Phil Edwards all

twisted and turned trying to find space but Marvin Johnson eventually wasted

his cross and Coventry could breathe.

The first half saw a lack of clear chances and United winger Rob Hall fluffed the U's best opportunity, a half chance on the counter-attack on the cusp of half time.

United, who missed the attacking threats of cup-tied pair Conor McAleny and Toni Martinez, were rattled at the start of the second period as the Sky Blues came out all guns blazing.

A quick City corner caught out the Oxford defence and Simon Eastwood

• Continues inside

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